"*Cover-Up at Roswell* develops a meticulous timeline of the events based on the best first-hand testimony available. It is a significant, new, scholarly contribution toward proving the UFO crash-recovery case that has momentous impact on history and science."

—PAUL DAVIDS, executive producer of *Roswell*, the Showtime Original Movie

COVER-UP AT ROSWELL

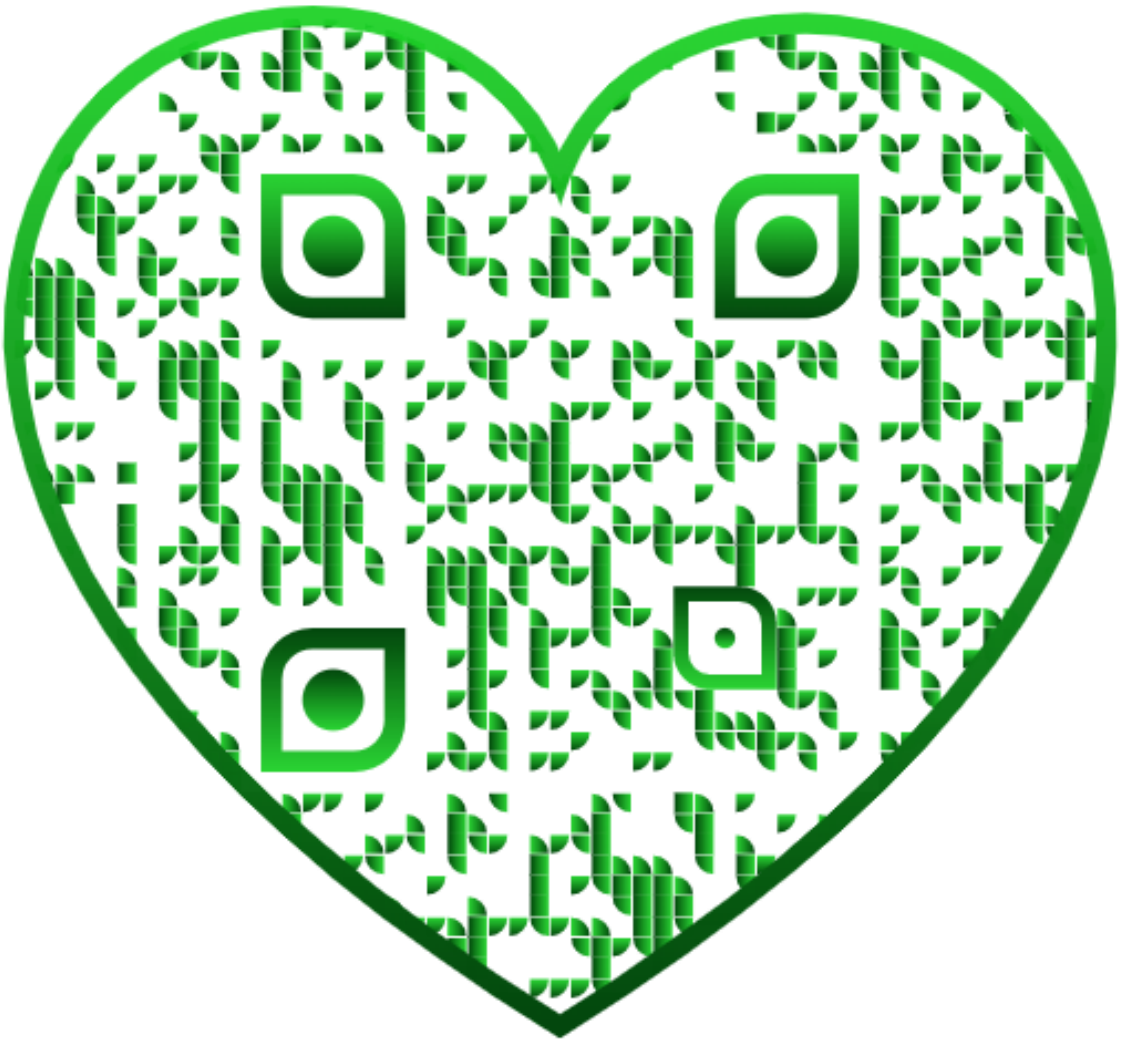
EXPOSING THE 70-YEAR CONSPIRACY TO SUPPRESS THE TRUTH

DONALD R. SCHMITT

BEST-SELLING COAUTHOR OF WITNESS TO ROSWELL

FOREWORD BY DAVID P. HAJJAR, PHD

WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE, CORNELL UNIVERSITY



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DONALD R. SCHMITT

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FOREWORD

The UFO phenomenon has sparked the interest of America since the 1940s, and ever since the saucer-like sightings were made by Kenneth Arnold over the state of Washington in 1947, this UFO phenomenon has gone global. Books, magazine articles, movies, TV shows, and congressional hearings have focused on UFOs, alien life, and Earth visitations; but no single event has become part of the American lexicon as the Roswell case has. In this new book carefully written and documented by Donald Schmitt, we now learn not only about the detailed sequence of events that occurred in July 1947, but also how witnesses have been intimidated into silence regarding the nature of their sightings and their hesitations to report what they saw.

My personal interest in the UFO phenomenon started back in the mid-1960s when I read the books of John Fuller, viz., *The Interrupted Journey* and *Incident at Exeter*. They concerned UFO events in New Hampshire where I was raised. At the University of New Hampshire in the late 1970s, I met Betty Hill, who was on the lecture circuit with a mock-up statute of the alien she said kidnapped her and her husband, Barney Hill. Since that time, there have been the NOVA and COSMOS program series on public television as well as programs on the History Channel like *Ancient Aliens* to educate the public about the possibilities of Extraterrestrial life and Earth visitations. The Roswell case always intrigued me and I am sure many others owing to the number of eyewitnesses. The U.S. Air force flip-flops on what really happened in the New Mexican desert, and the sincerity of intelligence officer Major Jesse Marcel when he was interviewed on TV in the early 1980s about his direct involvement in this case. And of course, reading about the deathbed confessions from people like Major Edwin Easley and pilot "Pappy" Henderson about what they witnessed in terms of their alien encounters at Roswell.

Schmitt has carefully examined the facts about the Roswell case in this new book and he offers interesting insights about this historic event. Specifically, he addresses why the government continues the cover-up. Schmitt also explains the discrepancy in witness testimonies and the efforts to deceive the public and the press, and it highlights the need to find definitive

physical evidence. Although no physical evidence has emerged to date, whether it is the aircraft itself or pathological specimens from the dead or alive aliens, it is quite clear that something unique happened in New Mexico in July 1947. There were just too many credible witnesses involved. This book is an excellent read to also help one understand why the civilian and government witnesses testimony were suppressed by the U.S. Government. Interestingly, the recent attempt by scholars to decipher General Roger Ramey's hand-held telegram about recovered bodies during the July 1947 press conference with Major Marcel have brought a greater clarity to one of the most important UFO events that has ever occurred.

As a Cornell University professor at its medical school in New York City since 1981, I have had several collaborations at the main campus in Ithaca, New York. Ergo, I had opportunities to attend lectures, and one of the lectures I attended was by Dr. Carl Sagan, professor of astronomy, since I have interests in exobiology. He was very involved in the production of the COSMOS TV series at the time. He spoke quite eloquently on extraterrestrial life and the possibility of Earth visitations. However, he was well known for his position that hard-core physical evidence was needed to definitively prove that Earth has been visited by alien life forms, and without it, he would have to remain skeptical. But during the question-and-answer period of one of his lectures, which I happened to attend, a question was asked about the Roswell case. I clearly remember that he stated that it was "one of the most interesting events recorded, where many witnesses observed something unique, and that further investigation was needed." As the years progressed, a full-feature movie based on a Donald Schmitt book about the Roswell cover-up was shown on SHOWTIME in 1994 to the public because of their strong interest in this case. It can also be reasoned that owing to the investigative work of Schmitt and others, there was no possible way that this whole Roswell story is about a "downed weather balloon," because the Air Force would not have dispatched so many officials from Washington, D.C., to Roswell in 1947 to investigate just another weather balloon. In fact, the Air Force changed its story and it was reported in the *New York Times* in September 1994 that it was a secret balloon originally from their Project Mogul. This version by the Air Force regarding the 1947 event in New Mexico has been met with significant skepticism.

It is now 70 years after the UFO crash and Roswell remains the most-studied UFO incident of all time due to the number of eyewitness testimonies

secured by Schmitt and his partner, Thomas Carey. However, it is appreciated that one is fighting time since many of the primary witnesses are passing on, who were sworn to secrecy and may be hiding physical evidence such as pieces of the craft or even photographs of the crash site(s). Since science is based on proof of concept, it is indeed important to recover this physical evidence to prove that this event did indeed occur as it has been reported.

Donald Schmitt, as well as other competent UFO researchers, has spoken about this case in terms of its importance. I and others hope physical evidence will soon emerge from one of the former Air Force personnel who were involved in this cover-up. I think UFO investigators need to stay on this case!

David P. Hajjar PhD
New York, NY
January 20, 2017

PREFACE

This is ABC News *Headline Edition* with Taylor Grant...

The Army Air Force has announced that a flying disk has been found and was now in the possession of the Army. Army officers say the missile, found sometime last week, has been inspected at Roswell, New Mexico, and sent to Wright Field, Ohio, for further inspection.

Late this afternoon a bulletin form New Mexico suggested that the widely publicized mystery of the flying saucers may soon be solved. Army Air Force officers reported that one of the strange disks had been found and inspected sometime last week. Our correspondents with Army officials endeavoring to obtain all possible late information.

Seventy years have passed since that broadcast—and the cover-up continues....

INTRODUCTION

"If they should come from Mars, we shouldn't be frightened."
—General Nathan F. Twining, senior director, Air Material Command

"Flying saucers are real. Too many good men have seen them that don't have hallucinations."
—Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, medal of honor recipient, considered the greatest American flying ace in history

There was so much of it," exclaimed Marcel as he peered out over the open range.[1] It was just the day before when he handled a few pieces of the strange wreckage at the office of the Chavez County Sheriff, George Wilcox, 65 miles away down in Roswell. Now he fully grasped the magnitude of the rancher's concern. "Who's going to clean up all that mess?" complained foreman Mack Brazel. From the start, that was becoming the least of anyone's concern as Marcel and his counter-intel partner became a bit uneasy over the growing situation. If it wasn't ours then whose was it? What was this stuff? Neither of the two officers had ever seen anything like it before. Their minds raced as to the possibilities. And there was so much of it....

At sunrise on Monday, July 7th, 1947, Major Jesse Marcel, head of intelligence of the 509th Atomic Bomb Wing stationed at the Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF) and Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) officer Captain Sheridan Cavitt would arrive at what would become the central focus of the U.S. military for the next three days. Brazel and the two men had just spent the night at the old Hines House after the rancher led them there the prior evening. They would spend the better part of the next day examining, collecting, loading, and containing what they couldn't fit into two vehicles. Marcel would send Cavitt on ahead to report directly to Colonel William Blanchard, the commanding officer back in Roswell. The major would check over the area one last time. Much of the remaining debris was gathered in an area about the size of a football field. Before, it had extended for almost a mile. Marcel would recommend a full-scale recovery operation and the need for many more troops; 50 to 60 would swarm the area by the time the next morning had ended.

The military would extend its cordon of the immediate area beyond the

debris field, but also the ranch house—almost 10 miles away. Cross-country two-track dirt roads and outlying main roads were also blocked. Military personnel had to pass through check-points and no one had free access to the recovery location—unless they had pre-approval from the higher-ups. Even the locals were not permitted to perform their routine work duties. Young Bud Payne, another rancher in the area, found out the hard way by simply pursuing a wandering steer onto the J.B. Foster ranch—the very ranch where all the strange debris was discovered just mere days before. No sooner than Payne rode his horse across the now-commandeered property, a jeep carrying army MPs sped over the hillside and bore down on the unsuspecting cowboy. Payne, who would later be elected Lincoln County judge, was physically man-handled and forced off the ranch. Next, he was ordered not to set foot on the property until their assignment was completed. This incident, as many more to come, illustrated that our military, in total violation of the U.S. Constitution, violated the civil rights of American citizens. In the case of Bud Payne, they had no right ejecting him off of private property for which they had no authority. This was just the beginning....

Jay and Elizabeth "Wilcox" Tulk, daughter of Sheriff George Wilcox. PHOTO CREDIT: DON SCHMITT.

Non-military people were threatened into submission by unknown agents of the federal government. Physical evidence that was not secured at the debris site was systematically tracked down from home to home, barn to barn, person to person—all with the authorized intent of covering up one of the greatest discoveries to befall humankind: the concept that we are not alone and that visitors from another inhabitance had arrived on our speck of Earth and tragically met their demise on an obscure parcel of desert in the high country of New Mexico. The truth be damned; no one was to ever know the full breadth of what had fallen out of the sky that fateful night in July 1947. Troops would spend more than two full days preserving that evidence. Industrial vacuums removed the final traces. All that remained was a long gouge from the initial impact of a larger piece of the descending unknown object. Tire tracks covered the terrain. Just as the desert floor had been stripped naked of all of its secrets, so too had the local residents.

Payne indicates where Brazel described the debris field. PHOTO CREDIT: DON SCHMITT.

Hines House and livestock shed. PHOTO CREDIT: DON SCHMITT.

Everything was soon *forced* to return to normal. “You are not to say another word about the incident” became an all-too-common catchphrase throughout the Corona ranch territory. It seems unlikely that an event, which captivated the American psyche, affecting the personal lives of so many and leaving them cold and cynical about their government, could be a simple weather balloon device. What tactics were utilized to ensure the full cooperation of all the civilians who saw and knew too much? Roswell photographer Jack Rodden did business with many of the local ranchers from the Corona region. Rodden describes how one of the ranchers told him that three of his children returned home during the time of the incident. They appeared frightened to death and refused to speak about what they had experienced. The photographer pressed the rancher and was told by the old-timer that the kids had gotten too close to something and someone from the government had scared them severely. Other parents, such as Loretta Proctor, one of Brazel’s neighbors at that time, recounted how, “When he returned home he [son Timothy] looked as though he had seen a ghost.”[2] Soon, it would become abundantly clear that the secret-keepers focused on the civilian witnesses. Curious children innocently behaving as we all have in our youth should not go to bed at night with the fear of government reprisal. “You will never see you parents again”[3] was an unforgivable threat reserved for drug lords and cold-hearted criminals—not agents of the federal

government. The cover-up of such extreme retaliatory measures besmirches not only the integrity of the U.S. Government, but it also raises the ultimate question: What level of national security need be achieved that those in charge of the protection of our people should necessitate the need to utilize tortuous threats to children? That question should have all of us reassess any remaining doubts we may still have about the Roswell Incident.

On Wednesday, July 9, 1947, the *New York Times* was quick to denigrate the competence of all the military officers at Roswell. Newsman Murray Schumach wrote:

> Celestial crockery had the Army up in the air for several hours yesterday before an Army officer explained that what a colleague thought was a "flying disk" was nothing more than a battered Army weather balloon.... Finally, a lowly warrant officer, Irving Newton, a forecaster at the Fort Worth, Texas, weather station, solved the mystery. He said it was just a part of a weather balloon, such as is used by eighty weather stations in the country to determine velocity and direction of wind at high altitude. Several hours before the New Mexico mystery had been solved, a Canadian meteorologist suggested the same answer in connection with rumors of "flying saucers" in Circleville, Ohio. This was soon after a couple in the Ohio town had jubilantly proclaimed their "capture" of a mysterious disk.[4]

Allow this to serve as a primary example of how the "watchdog" media, within a day of the famous press announcement that claimed the Army had actually "captured" a "flying saucer," was in complete lock-step with the government. As the following pages unfold, the reader will observe that there is not a single element of the cited *Times* article that was accurate; rather, it was all pre-scripted propaganda, which the same media continues to regurgitate today.

Former presidents, senators, congressmen, governors, along with the highest-ranking officers in the military have all lamented their failure in getting the truth about Roswell. What personal knowledge do any of the self-proclaimed skeptics have about the matter that supersedes all of these? These remain the same people who claim to have won the fight against Roswell, yet still are compelled to rage the war. The sixth man to walk on the moon, Apollo 14 astronaut Dr. Edgar Mitchell, stated, "Make no mistake, Roswell happened! I've seen secret files which show the government knew about it—but decided not to tell the public."[5] For those of you who remain curious as to the true nature of potentially the biggest event of the millennium, read on. Know that you are in high-level company still thirsty for the driving force behind this 70-year cover-up. And as General Wesley Clark personally

commented to the author in December 2014, “If they had any answers [about Roswell] I’m sure they would have told him [Bill Clinton] while he was in the White House.”[6] Let us proceed; let us find the answers together....

1
SILENCING THE PUBLIC

"The general said it would cause a stampede. How could we convince the public the [UFOs] weren't hostile when we didn't know ourselves?"

—Captain Edward Ruppelt, in response to General Hoyt S. Vandenberg's rejection of the Project Sign Report, which concluded that the phenomenon was "interplanetary"

"Our study would be conducted almost exclusively by nonbelievers.... The trick would be, I think, to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear a totally objective study."

—Dr. Robert J. Low, project administrator of the controversial Condon Committee, Colorado University Study at Boulder

One of the most infamous engagements in U.S. military history was the My Lai Massacre, which happened in 1968 during the Vietnam War. In the heat of action, American troops killed apparently unarmed, noncombatant, Vietnamese civilians. A court martial was held, and even though a cogent argument of extenuating circumstances was presented in defense of those accused, prison sentences were handed down to soldiers of the U.S. Army. More recently, a similar charge of apparent military excess toward civilians from the same conflict has been lodged against a former U.S. senator and now and ex-presidential hopeful, Bob Kerrey of Nebraska.

A Navy Seal during the Vietnam War, Kerrey led a raid on a Vietnamese hamlet, and when the smoke of the battle had cleared, civilians lay dead in the center of the village. Although no formal charges have yet been brought against Kerrey (his role is alleged to have been similar to that of Lt. William Calley of My Lai infamy), his presidential aspirations came to a screeching halt when these accusations became public. (Kerrey has denied the allegations.)

The point of these examples is that a military reprisal against civilians, even in times of war and against enemy civilians, is repugnant to our value system and something that will not be tolerated by the American people. Today, we would refer to them as civil rights violations, or war crimes if committed in time of war, and their perpetrators would be brought to swift justice and punished severely. In particular, when such acts involve excesses by the military establishment upon the helpless—whether military or civilian

—the resulting outrage by the media can reach firestorm proportions.

Such was not always the case, however. Immediately following World War II, the United States enjoyed an understandably euphoric period of joy, pride, and optimism. Germany and Japan had both surrendered and our victorious military was coming home. During this period that lasted roughly from late 1945 until the start of the Korean War in 1950, our undefeated military and the personnel in it were placed upon a pedestal and held in high esteem by a grateful America. Our military "walked on water"[1] as far as the public perception—or so the American people thought.

The sudden and unexpected arrival of the modern age of UFOs in the summer of 1947 caught our military establishment completely by surprise. In the military mindset, the first position was that these mysterious craft had to be some new technology from the Soviet Union and, by extension, a potential threat to our national security. Even after it was determined that the "flying discs" were definitely not of Russian design, the national security concerns prevailed, and the entire matter of flying saucers was given a security classification "higher than the H-Bomb," as one anonymous source described it.

Occurring during the first week of July 1947, the Roswell Incident coincided with a wave of flying saucer sightings that swept the United States that summer. Each new sighting report commanded front-page banner headlines in many of the country's major newspapers and Roswell was no exception. As an anxious and excited nation—if not the world—awaited more news of the recovery of a genuine flying saucer outside of Roswell, New Mexico, things were about to change.

Moving quickly to kill the story, the U.S. government resorted to a combination of tactics, including appeals to patriotism, claims of a need to ensure "national security," bribery, threats of long prison sentences, and outright thuggery in the form of death threats. As to the proficiency of such techniques, the Roswell Incident became a two-to-three-day story as it quickly passed from the public consciousness and was forgotten by all but those personally involved.

As authors Charles Berlitz and William Moore reported in their 1980 book *The Roswell Incident*, a British officer, Flight Lieutenant Hughie Green, was, at the time, driving his car from California to Philadelphia. While traversing the state of New Mexico, Green heard the first radio reports concerning the "crashed saucer" near Roswell. Continuing on his journey, he heard many

updates to the original account, including several late-breaking news announcements. As demonstrative of how quickly the story was squelched, by the time Green arrived in Pennsylvania there was no further mention by the press about the spectacular event. The story was dead.

Those in the military who were witnesses to the actual occurrences, specifically the handling of the wreckage and the remains, were the easiest elements for the government to control. The Roswell Army Air Field was the first Strategic Air Command (SAC) base in the world, so all personnel who worked at the facility, whether military or civilian, had top security clearances. From the base commander to a custodian who swept a broom, they all had the appropriate clearances to be assigned to the most elite unit within the U.S. military. Even before the crash of the unknown object outside of Roswell, all of the personnel were living the policy of not talking even to family members about events that transpired at the base—ever. To emphasize this point, the enlisted men responsible for the cleanup at the various sites were detained in groups and "debriefed" (that is, sworn to secrecy under the guise of "national security"). To ensure their silence, lengthy prison terms were promised to anyone who might speak out of turn and reveal anything sensitive about the event.

We also have heard from family members that bribes of $10,000 or more were used to purchase the silence of those who specifically witnessed the biological remains recovered from the crash. The officers involved, especially career officers, were even less problematic. An officer seeking to advance his or her career in the military does not do so by defying direct orders or breaching security. In fact, it is a career-breaker. One key officer who was heavily involved in the recovery operation even promised President Truman (via an aide) that he would keep the secret for the rest of his life. He held that sacred trust inviolate until he lay dying many decades later.

Lt. Colonel Edwin Easley was the former provost marshal at the base at Roswell in 1947. He was in charge of the 1395 MP unit and responsible for all military security there at the time of the event. When we first found the officer in 1990, my former partner Dr. Kevin D. Randle interviewed him via telephone. The call was recorded and with total defiance in his responses, Easley repeats over and over that he was "...still sworn to secrecy."[2] No matter what the question about his own participation or knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the incident, Easley repeats his sworn orders. Consider that this was 43 years after the occurrence and many years after the

“official” explanation for Roswell had long been declassified. Clearly, the aging officer knew otherwise, because he had two more years to educate himself on his position and yet he still honored his security oath. While he was dying from stomach cancer at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas, he finally provided a mere glimpse of what he knew to be the truth. A flying saucer and its crew were recovered back in 1947 while he was stationed at Roswell, and the president asked them never to say another word about it. This he confessed to his two daughters and granddaughter after she held up her gift to his face while he was confined to his bed: a copy of our Randle and Schmitt book, *UFO Crash at Roswell*.

Controlling civilians, however, was a more difficult matter. Except in time of war or under conditions when martial law has been declared, the U.S. military has no direct constitutional authority over American civilians. It could keep quiet its own house (the men and women of the 509th Atomic Bomb Group stationed in Roswell, and others in the chain of command), but how can the armed forces keep civilians from exercising their First Amendment–guaranteed freedom of speech? There were many civilians involved in the Roswell Incident. Ranchers, their families and children, law enforcement officers, and the press all experienced direct contact with the truthful nature of the incident. These people, in some cases, were responsible enough to notify the authorities in the first place and there still lacks any testimony that would suggest they were rewarded for performing their civic duty, from the initial discovery of the debris field by civilians near Corona; to the discovery of the remains of the craft, again by civilians, much closer to Roswell; to the recovery operations at the Roswell base; to, finally, the shipment of the wreckage and bodies to Wright Field (later renamed Wright Patterson Air Force Base) in Dayton, Ohio.

Aside from the Corona ranchers whose homes were indiscriminately ransacked during the Army’s mad search for “souvenirs”[3] from the crash, other civilians involved in the 1947 Roswell events were dealt with through civilian authority-proxies. This included rancher Mack Brazel, whose discovery initiated the entire chain of events and who was dealt with directly by the military. Brazel was abducted and detained at the Roswell base against his will for almost a week; while there he was intimidated, threatened, given an invasive physical exam, cajoled, and ultimately bribed to change his story and promised to never talk about the incident again. These events should not be overlooked, specifically in the case of Brazel. Legally, he was not even

afforded due process during his full detainment. It would appear that the military, for reasons of national security, had placed themselves “above the law.”

Without the federal regulations within a declaration of martial law, which would allow them to supersede local law enforcement, they essentially had to resort to a new set of rules—simply because they were dealing with an unprecedented situation that also transcended the rule of law as well. The balloon explanation reduced Roswell down to the sublime in the court of public opinion. Behind the scenes, anyone who was a threat to that alterative explanation was an immediate risk to the security of the nation and had to be dealt with by whatever means necessary. Brazel was mortified by the indignity of his entire ordeal.

RAAF former “guest house” where Mack Brazel was detained for five days after the incident was explained away as a balloon. PHOTO CREDIT: TOM CAREY.

Sheriff George Wilcox of Chaves County, New Mexico (of which Roswell is the county seat), was an authority proxy utilized by the Army to help contain the story throughout the city. A photograph of him on the telephone and looking like a “deer caught in the headlights”[4] was featured prominently on the front page of the July 9, 1947 edition of the *Roswell Daily Record.* But Wilcox was doing much more than just fielding phone calls from the curious public. He refused to give out any details to such inquiries because he was

"helping out the fellows from the base."[5] Keep in mind that the sheriff is the number-one law enforcement official in any respective county throughout the United States. In that capacity, if a sheriff had any cause to make an arrest on any military facility, he could arrest the base commander if he had cause to do so. And yet, Wilcox totally failed his publicly elected position and took his orders from the military during the entire Roswell Incident. Wilcox became the civilian "enforcer" assigned to threaten and intimidate local Roswellians into keeping their mouths shut about what they had witnessed. It was his task, handed down by the military, to deliver the warning of the "ultimate sanction" to those who saw or knew too much about the incident. Sadly, he allowed himself to be intimidated by the "fellows from the base," and would later pay a heavy price, from which he never recovered.

Whether it concerned a personal visit to the parents of local mortician Glenn Dennis of the Ballard Funeral Home or civilian employees at the base Pete and Ruben Anaya, the sheriff issued the same warning as he went down his "hit list" provided by the RAAF: "If you say anything, you will be killed. And your entire family will as well."[6]

It is not known to how many others Sheriff Wilcox delivered "the message" on behalf of the Army. What is known, however, is that he never ran for re-election. According to his daughter Phyllis, who witnessed some of her father's physical accosting by the military at the Roswell courthouse, the entire affair "destroyed him."[7] When his former Chief Deputy and former Roswell Chief of Police Leslie O. Thompson was asked about his recollections some 40 years later, his immediate response was, "I don't want to get my head blown off."[8]

Sheriff Wilcox soon discovered, however, that his complicity did not equate to immunity. After the story of the Roswell crash had been contained and public interest in the matter had subsided, the Army paid a visit to Wilcox and his wife, Inez. This was no social call, no occasion for praise, no courtesy call to reward him for a nasty job well done. The message delivered to the startled couple was that unless they kept quiet about everything, particularly Wilcox's role in the cover-up, they would be killed. The sheriff was also summoned to the RAAF for a further, unspecified "discussion." Not knowing what it was about or what to expect, he took two of his deputies along with him out of fear of what had transpired earlier. When he returned to the courthouse, Inez observed that he was acting "very strange." He had a

distant look in his expression and appeared to have been “roughed up.” The family sadly observed him take an immediate downward turn both physically and mentally. Sheriff Wilcox died in 1961 a “broken man” at a mental hospital in Los Vegas. Asked by her granddaughter, Dr. Barbara Duggar, years later whether she believed the threats or not, Inez Wilcox looked at her with an expression consistent with her reply: “What do you think?”[9]

When the initial call came into the Roswell Fire Station about a downed aircraft north of town, before they could respond, a colonel from the RAAF arrived on the scene. He quickly informed those on duty that “an unknown object from someplace else”[10] had crashed. He instructed them, with no authority, that they were not to discuss the incident and that the military would handle it. Sensing that there was much more to the story, crew chief Dan Dwyer and fireman Lee Reeves drove out north of town based on some of the preliminary information they had. Arriving just before the Army could secure the site, the two men were able to get close enough to confirm that all the talk back in Roswell was true. “From someplace else” was putting it mildly. The so-called “aircraft” was a smallish, egg-shaped object unlike anything they had seen before. What they could have never imagined were the bodies lying in the lee of the craft: “They weren’t human!”[11]

Known as the “Iron Major,” the Roswell city manager was a decorated WWII veteran of the only independent tank battalion in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations to receive the president’s Unit Citation. C.M. Woodbury was a member of the 752nd Tank Battalion, which had experienced some of the most brutal combat of the war in the Battle for Bologna during the Italian Campaign. He was also a close, personal friend to the RAAF base commander, Colonel Blanchard. A short time after Dwyer and Reeves returned back to the firehouse, a most intimidating figure walked in to greet them. “You are not to say another word about the crash,” Woodbury forcefully warned.[12]

At that time, Dwyer was not aware that his 12-year-old daughter Frankie had stopped by the fire station while he was out in the desert north of town. He had no idea that Frankie had serendipitously placed herself on the same “watch list” as her father. The visit by state Police Officer Robert Scoggins with the strange piece of metal from out in Lincoln County opened the door to a lifetime of fear and paranoia for the Dwyer family. Frankie saw and handled a piece that “flowed like water”[13] after you crumbled it. Too many

witnesses held the truth in their own hands—more suppression was needed.

1st Lieutenant Arthur Philbin was called in to pay a visit to the Dwyer family. He was the lead security officer with the 390th Air Service Squadron (ASS) at the RAAF and, with a couple of MPs, arrived at Frankie's home a day or two after her visit to the fire station. Dan was busy with his duties there and had already been scared off. Next, it was the rest of the family. "If you say anything, not only will you be killed, but we will come back for your family,"[14] promised Philbin, who left no doubt he meant every word.

In 1947, Arthur Farnsworth was a successful and highly respected businessman in Roswell who owned and operated the city's regional Ford dealership, Roswell Auto Co., in the downtown area. In addition to their home in Roswell, he and his family also owned a working ranch to the northwest. According to his family, Arthur was one of numerous ranchers who made their way to one of the sites related to the crash. And because of that curiosity, the military paid him a visit at his auto lot. According to his daughter Sue, who was 7 years old at the time, he informed the family that they told him "...if we ever said anything to anyone about it, they would kill all of us. I went out there with some other ranchers soon after word of the crash got around, and we saw some things we weren't supposed to see." Sue confessed, "I never in my life saw my father so scared, before or since."[15] As discussed, the threat of "terminal action" was authorized to secure compliance—and such action was in total violation of the constitutional rights of all of those civilians involved. The stakes must have been exceedingly high.

Getting rough with civilians was just the style of Army Air Force Officer Colonel Hunter G. Penn. During World War II, Penn was a bombardier on a plane in the 303rd Bomb Group known as the "Hell's Angels." Curiously, according to unit records, Penn was pulled from flight status after just two missions for unknown reasons. After the war, his foster daughter Michelle said that he was associated with Wright Field, and that when she was a teenager her foster father told her that he had undertaken a deadly serious assignment back in the summer of 1947. He went on to explain that while he was at Wright Field, he was ordered to "visit ranches around Roswell, New Mexico," close to where a flying saucer had come down that summer. She described that he was "tasked to help manage civilian-military affairs after the crash" to ensure that an "information blackout" regarding the event was put—and kept—in force. More bluntly, he was to question those who were

suspected of knowing specifically about the bodies and “make sure they did not talk.”[16]

The officer was ordered to focus on ranchers, hired hands, their families, and “simple types” residing in the outlying region between Roswell and Corona. Whether he had permission (in so many words) or just by his known nature, Penn used intimidation and threats to instill fear and compliance to anyone who knew too much. Penn told Michelle that he was authorized to use physical force, including weaponry, on non-compliant civilians to enforce their silence and cooperation. Apparently, appeals of “national security” and “patriotism” fell short of the required suppression of all the non-military sorts involved.

Sergeant Bert Schulz was a B-29 electrician assigned to the 393rd Bomb Squadron at Roswell Air Field (it was renamed during the transition period of September 1947 to January 1948 from the RAAF to Walker Air Force Base, when the Air Force became a separate branch of the military) in December of 1947, just five months after the incident. Aside from the occasional scuttlebutt about all the “secret” activity around and in the “big hangar” a few months prior, Schulz described a much more disturbing element, an element that soured him on the military, causing him to reconsider making a career of it. “There was still a lot of talk about MPs harassing civilians over the affair,” remarked Schulz. “The MPs got pretty rough with some of the ranchers out there, and they were bragging about it!”[17]

Bill Brazel Jr. (L) and the author at the debris field. PHOTO CREDIT DON SCHMITT

Truly one of the principle reasons for the ongoing cover-up is the nature of the phenomenon and greater minds failing to grasp any perspective. Translation: The phenomenon is too alien. Just as important is the human culpability of those responsible for subjecting their own neighbors—fellow Americans—to gulag-style tactics reserved for third-world countries. And after 70 years, all of those perpetrators now gone along with their intended victims, the scandal of human abuse overshadows the true nature of what crashed back in 1947—whether it was a balloon or visitors from another planet. For the former, such mistreatment is stunningly inexcusable. The violations of these innocent people were fully disproportionate to the explanation of any type of weather balloon device. Visitors from outer space? Reality gets turned on its head; human beings, like human rights, would seem to lose their glitter.

2
SILENCING THE PRESS

"There were some cases we could not explain. Repeat again. Never could."
—Lt. General Curtis Lemay, former head of Strategic Air Command, Air Force Chief of Staff

"Information on UFOs, including sighting reports, has been and is still being officially withheld."
—Col. Joseph J. Bryan III, founder of the CIA psychological warfare department, special assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force and NATO

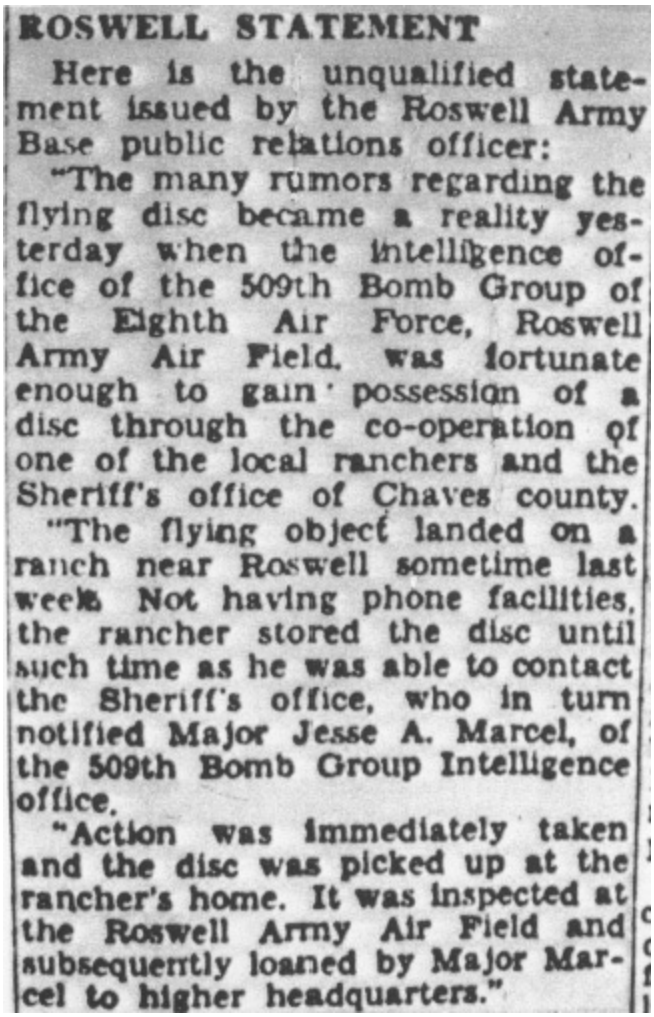
Incontrovertible evidence has been mounting for years regarding the extreme measures the Army Air Corps undertook to institute a complete suppression of the media from exposing the Roswell Incident. As orchestrated from Washington, the attempts to enforce a news blackout of the truth can now be thoroughly documented.

We now know from the posthumous release of the sealed statement of Walter Haut, the former Roswell air base Public Information Officer in 1947 who issued the now-famous flying saucer press release, that the Army decided upon a cover-up strategy on the same day that it announced the crashed saucer story, and that the strategy as well as the initial press release had been designed by officials in Washington. This effectively ended the decades-old debate of whether the initial flying saucer announcement had been a result of a local faux pas committed by the RAAF base commander, Colonel William Blanchard, by his intelligence officer Major Jesse Marcel, or by 1st Lieutenant Haut himself. The plan's implementation was communicated to Blanchard through his boss, General Roger Ramey (commanding officer of the 8th Air Force) headquartered at Fort Worth Army Air Field in Texas. This was also the unit to which Blanchard's 509th Bomb Group in Roswell was attached.

The suppression of the media would ultimately involve the use of security personal from not only the RAAF, but military bases from outside the area, military specialists in government subterfuge, Counter Intelligence officers form Fort Worth, the FBI, Secret Service Agents acting on behalf of President Harry S. Truman, the Federal Communications committee, and

politicians directly in Washington, D.C. “Dark Suits” were roaming all around the Roswell area, as described to us by eyewitnesses at the time of the event, and each one had a specific mission: preventing the truth from getting out of Roswell.

On Tuesday, July 8th, 1947, a few hours after the RAAF received some of the first physical evidence from the debris field brought in by Major Marcel, the regularly scheduled staff meeting was moved up to 7:30 a.m. This was a day and a half after ranch foreman Mack Brazel had previously brought to Roswell the first pieces of debris he had discovered just days prior. It was then that General Ramey’s chief of staff, Colonel Thomas J. DuBose, had been ordered by General Clements McMullen to have samples shipped immediately to Washington. The Pentagon had in their possession actual pieces of debris from New Mexico by late Sunday evening, July 6, which was two days before the RAAF released one of their most famous press reports, declaring the “capture of a flying saucer.” But the announcement was intentionally delayed to avoid the morning edition newspapers. Afternoon papers would already be going to press; the only paper that managed to publish the actual release was the *San Francisco Chronicle.*



ROSWELL STATEMENT

Here is the unqualified statement issued by the Roswell Army Base public relations officer:

"The many rumors regarding the flying disc became a reality yesterday when the intelligence office of the 509th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force, Roswell Army Air Field, was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc through the co-operation of one of the local ranchers and the Sheriff's office of Chaves county.

"The flying object landed on a ranch near Roswell sometime last week. Not having phone facilities, the rancher stored the disc until such time as he was able to contact the Sheriff's office, who in turn notified Major Jesse A. Marcel, of the 509th Bomb Group Intelligence office.

"Action was immediately taken and the disc was picked up at the rancher's home. It was inspected at the Roswell Army Air Field and subsequently loaned by Major Marcel to higher headquarters."

At mid-morning, 1st Lieutenant Walter Haut receives over the phone the dictated press release from Blanchard. At 11 a.m., Haut delivers the official announcement first to the two radio stations and then to the two daily newspapers. PHOTO CREDIT: IUFOMRC.

In dissecting the specific wording of this release, a number of very crucial items become obvious, such as the location and name of the rancher are omitted for the purpose of keeping the site confidential. It also diverts attention away from the base by citing the sheriff as being the rancher's initial contact. Call *him* if you want any answers. It states that the rancher stored the disc in a shed, which is true, except that it was only a larger piece from the debris field. Nonetheless, they have the "disc" in their possession. There was no mention of any remaining debris at that time, of which there still was a great deal more. "Nothing to see here."[1] No reason to check out the ranch and the unnamed rancher? Good luck finding him, because we have him hidden away in our custody. The only participant named in the entire

unprecedented event is Marcel who, at that time, was preparing to board a B-29 destined for Fort Worth. There he would be ordered by Ramey to pose with a substituted weather balloon device and photographed by the Carswell AAF Public Information Officer. No reporters were allowed to photograph, let alone see the real material while in Roswell. There, they merely posted a well-thought-out, well-crafted press statement for one specific purpose: to set up the straw man—build it up, and then tear it down. It worked masterfully.

As the press release hit the wire services at around noon CST, continuous shipments of the real wreckage kept arriving at the RAAF. However, consider the following inconsistencies in the sequence of events immediately following the announcement of the flying saucer recovery:

- Within an hour of the press release, the *San Francisco Examiner* called Blanchard's "higher headquarters" and talked personally with Ramey. The General described a radar target and weather balloon.
- The *New York Times* likewise claimed that the story began to change "within an hour" of the press release.
- The *Washington Post* reported that Ramey informed the Pentagon press office that the "object was in his office" at that very moment; in fact, no Roswell-related wreckage of any type had yet arrived. Shortly afterward, he placed another call to the Pentagon press office and said the object was made of tinfoil and wood and was 25 feet across.
- Ramey then informed another newspaper, *New York P.M.*, that the recovered wreckage looked "like the remains of a target and weather balloon" and was under "high security." Similar quotes appeared in various United Press articles.
- Other newspapers quoted Ramey saying that he "knew it was a weather balloon from the very beginning."

The total disconnect in all of these pronouncements on the part of General Ramey is that Major Marcel on Ramey's orders first arrived in Fort Worth on a special flight from Roswell with the "flying disc" at 5 p.m. CST, hours after all of the previous erroneous claims were made. Once Marcel reported to the General's office, the infamous weather balloon press conference began in earnest.

As planned, the July 9, 1947 newspaper headlines blared out the new cover story: "General Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer" and "It's Just a

Weather Balloon!" Most accounts also prominently featured press photos of General Ramey or Major Marcel posing behind the substituted weather balloon and a shredded radar kite with broken wooden sticks on the floor of the general's office. If the cover-up were to succeed, the Army Air Force knew it had several distinct target groups to silence, the first and most important being the national and international press corps. As we have demonstrated, this was achieved with remarkable ease via Ramey's phony, makeshift weather balloon press conference. The sole demurring voice was an editorial in the July 9, 1947 *Roswell Daily Record* that wondered if the Army (Air Force) was guilty of "keeping secrets."

Leased Wire
Associated Press

Roswell Daily Record

RECORD PHONES
Business Office 2288
News Department
2287

Gen. Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer

Lewis Pushes Advantage in New Contract

Southern Mines Only Hold-outs In New Contract

Sheriff Wilcox Takes Leading Role in Excitement Over Report 'Saucer' Found

Arrest 2,000 In Athens in Commie Plot

Revolution Was Set to Be Pulled Off Thursday

Send First Roswell Wire Photos from Record Office

Ramey Says Excitement Is Not Justified

General Ramey Says Disk Is Weather Balloon

U. S. Lend-Lease To Britain Looms As Needed by Fall

Attorney to Force Closing up of Ruidoso Clubrooms

Local Weatherman Believes Disks to Be Bureau Devices

Romania Rejects Bid to Take Part In Economic Meet

Find Nude Body of Strangled Woman In New York Hotel

Harassed Rancher who Located 'Saucer' Sorry He Told About It

Decorated Veteran Records Discharge

35 Make Rotary's Century Club Roll

Donate Freely to Aid Legion Juniors

Local Weather

Bulletin

Welcome to Roswell

PHOTO CREDIT IUFOMRC.

Once the weather balloon explanation had been given to the press, the second phase of “getting the press off our backs” went into action. As if to punctuate the conclusion of his press conference, General Ramey provided more disinformation for press consumption, saying that the flight scheduled to take the alleged “flying saucer” wreckage to Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, had been cancelled. In truth, it had not been cancelled, and arrived at Wright later that day. He then went on an El Paso radio station within the next few

days not only to reiterate the weather balloon story, but also to suggest that the wave of flying saucer sightings engrossing the country that summer was related more to the consumption of alcohol than to anything physically invading the airspace of the nation. The ridicule factor was officially born.

Meanwhile, back in Roswell, querying phone calls were already starting to come in from all over the world since the original story first broke a few hours earlier. In response, it was decided that the best way to handle the burgeoning press interest was to silence all the principle witnesses. Media calls for Major Marcel were answered with the perfunctory "Major Marcel is on assignment and not available."[2] That was true, of course, as Marcel had been hustled off to Fort Worth to be used as an unwitting weather balloon prop in General Ramey's infamous news conference. Reporters calling for the base commander, Colonel Blanchard, were told that he was away "on leave," which was totally untrue. In reality, Blanchard had gone out to the crash site north of town to oversee the recovery operation and had also temporarily moved his living quarters into one of the enlisted men's barracks until all the excitement died down. Blanchard also instructed his PIO Walter Haut, who normally would have represented the base during any time of press interviews, to go home and "hide out,"[3] which he did after he was permitted to personally handle and see the sensitive evidence related directly to the crash. Completing this entire "cone of silence" and blatant misinformation to the media, telephone calls to Lieutenant Haut's office were advised to call Chavez County Sheriff George Wilcox, who was previously provided with talking points by the military. Now consider this: The RAAF had totally taken charge of the event by this time and they allowed a civilian to serve as their spokesperson. Sorry, but under normal military regulations, it doesn't work that way.

Robin Adair was a photographer with the Associated Press (AP) when he received a call from the main office in New York. He was in El Paso, Texas, at the time, repairing a newly designed camera, or at least making the effort. It was early afternoon on Tuesday, July 8th, 1947, and the bureau office in El Paso possessed the portable wire transmitter used to post late-breaking news stories out to a national audience. Adair was to get to Roswell immediately, even if it meant leasing a plane.

Fully briefed on the situation in New Mexico, much of it stemming from the RAAF press release that had just gone out mere hours before, Adair felt it wise to get some aerial film footage before touching down in Roswell. His

hired pilot flew his single-engine plane north toward Lincoln County.

> We didn't do a bit of good by it. We couldn't get any [pictures].... Even then the place was surrounded by policemen, FBI people. They wouldn't let us get within three-quarters of a mile of the place. We were afraid to go too low—afraid they would shoot at us.
>
> We did take a plane up there, but we couldn't land anywhere around it [the debris field on the Foster ranch]. We got as close as we could and we wanted to get lower.... They [the military officers on the ground] just waved.... You couldn't tell if they were waving us off or just politely telling us to get the hell away from there."[4]

From the air, Adair managed to observe all of the activity at what was later determined to be the debris field. Many troops, vehicles, and MPs covered the large open pasture. Some areas appeared to be scorched. Even though Adair was in a plane, the photographer could make out what he called the "gouge," which other witnesses have also described as they later witnessed the same from the ground (a furrow, 10-foot-wide, a few hundred feet long, moving to the east-southeast at the upper pinnacle of the scattered wreckage). Adair continued, "You couldn't see too well from the air.... Apparently, the way it cut into [the ground], whatever hit the ground wasn't wood or something soft. It looked like it was metal."[5]

Heading back south to Roswell, they finally landed at the old municipal airstrip west of town. Having arrived in town, Adair linked up with reporter Jason Kellahin, who had also been assigned by the main office in New York. He had just made the 200-mile drive from Albuquerque. That evening, the duo went to the offices of the *Roswell Daily Record* to get the story and potentially interview the principal witness. Adair proceeded to set up the equipment to transmit wire messages back to Albuquerque. They were also there to interview the man who started all the talk about a crashed flying saucer, but unbeknownst to them the rancher Mack Brazel was being held at the RAAF to prevent him from saying anything more to the press—until they were ready to have him retract the entire original story. The timing was perfect as the military escorted him to the newspaper; Mack Brazel now claimed that what was discovered up in Lincoln County was simply a weather balloon. Adair snapped the cowboy's picture while he was wearing his signature hat. The photo and Kellahin's story were tediously wired back to the New York office. Kellahin, a native of Roswell, personally knew Sheriff Wilcox, so he made one final attempt at getting to the bottom of the whole affair. The only additional information that he was able to get out of him was that the military had indicated that it would be best if he didn't say

anything. For good measure, to prevent any possible leakage in case any other frustrated news people tried to take matters to higher authorities in the hope of obtaining some information, it was immediately announced in the press that New Mexico Governor, Thomas Mabry, had taken a "sudden vacation to the mountains"[6] with his family. Mabry had been scheduled to meet with Colonel Blanchard the following day (July 9) in an official capacity to sign the Air Force Day proclamation, but because both were unavailable, the signing did not take place until the following week with New Mexico's lieutenant governor, Joseph Montoya, standing in for the governor who remained unavailable by traveling directly from his "sudden vacation" to a governors' conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Other than that, the compliant press appeared eager to close the book on both Roswell and, by extension, flying saucers—a topic that provided them no immediate answers and little they could personally investigate. Historically, it can be documented that the Roswell media and other outlets throughout New Mexico did make a concerted attempt to break this unprecedented event to the outside world. But as you will see shortly, they were systematically shut down and denied their First Amendment rights as defined by the U.S. Constitution: freedom of the press.

Roswell radio station KGFL had every intention of broadcasting the story of the century, which is why its staff escorted rancher Mack Brazel to the home of the station's majority owner, Walter Whitmore, Sr., and recorded Brazel's testimony late into the evening of Monday, July 7th, 1947. At least, that was their plan, until the U.S. Army tracked their principle witness down and took custody of Brazel and the KGFL wire recording, removing both to the RAAF south of town.

Efforts continued the next morning to disseminate preliminary news information to the local townspeople. But Washington was specifically focused on New Mexico. Early in the morning on July 8th, Whitmore tried to get Brazel's story out on the Mutual Broadcasting wire feed but was unable to get a call through. Within an hour, George "Jud" Roberts, minority owner at the station, received a long-distance, person-to-person phone call from T.J. Slowie, the executive secretary of the Federal Communications Committee (FCC), who warned him that the matter involved national security. Should KGFL air any further information about the incident or anything that Brazel had disclosed the night before, they would lose their license to broadcast "within 24 hours"—all for just reporting the news.

As if that wasn't enough to squelch the story, another call to KGFL came from Washington a few minutes later. Such a two-man press was obviously coordinated. It was from U.S. Senator Dennis Chavez, who strongly urged the radio station do as the FCC had cautioned. When station executives asked for his support, he indicated that the decision was out of his hands. With no recourse, and the threat of the government putting them out of business, KGFL was forced to comply.

Frank Joyce was an announcer working at the same radio station in 1947. When he serendipitously called the Roswell courthouse for late-breaking information for his next newscast on Sunday, July 6, he had no idea what was about befall him. Mack Brazel had just arrived in Roswell to report the massive debris field up in the Corona region. During the coincidental telephone interview from the Chaves County Sheriff's Office, Brazel told Joyce about discovering the unusual wreckage on a ranch he supervised 65 miles northwest of town. "Maybe it's from one of them [sic] flying saucer things people have been talking about."[7]

He also told Joyce about finding "little people" at another location only a couple of miles from the debris field, which made Joyce an immediate candidate for silencing by the military.

No martial law had been declared and America was not at war. Still, the U.S. government continued extreme measures to shut down the press from releasing the true story to the public. Next they would force Joyce's boss, Walt Whitmore, into doing the military's dirty work for them, evidently because a military officer had failed in an attempt to intimidate Joyce, who promptly suggested where he should go.

By whatever means, the military, or more likely government agents from Washington, instructed Whitmore to take his young announcer for a long ride out into the desert. Getting in the back seat, Joyce was accompanied by a strange-looking man who never uttered a single word. Whitmore drove out north of Roswell and then for some time thereafter. As we discovered many years later, they arrived at the same adobe shack where Brazel, Marcel, and Cavitt had spent the night days before—the old Hines House. He was then instructed to get out of the car and enter the shack. Inside, he stood there for mere minutes when in walked none other than Mack Brazel. "You're not going to say anything about what I told you the other day, are you?" the rancher asked Joyce. "Not if you don't want me to," responded the newsman.

Brazel responded, “Good. You know our lives will never be the same.”[8] With that, Brazel stepped out and Joyce would never see him again. After a few more minutes, Joyce existed and got back in Whitmore’s waiting car. The stranger in the back seat had left.

When they returned back to the radio station in Roswell, Joyce was further alarmed to find that his office had been ransacked and any documentation mentioning the crash incident was gone. The powers that be were still not finished with Frank Joyce.

Although the officially sanctioned intimidation of a news source in Roswell was underway, another situation was developing at KOAT Radio in Albuquerque, an affiliate of both ABC and Mutual Broadcasting networks at that time. Secretary Lydia Sleppy remembered vividly the frantic phone call she received form Johnny McBoyle, general manager and part owner of sister station KSWS in Roswell, which had to rely on KOAT to transmit to the Associated Press wire service. “Lydia, get ready for a scoop!” McBoyle excitedly said. “We want to get this on the wire right away. Listen to this! A flying saucer has crashed... no, I’m not joking. It crashed near Roswell!”[9]

Sleppy urgently asked program director and acting station manager Karl Lambertz to witness her reception of the story and its transmission. Using the teletype, Sleppy alerted ABC News headquarters in Hollywood to expect a “high bulletin” story. Lambertz looked on as she initiated the connection. “It’s a big crumbled dishpan,” McBoyle—hardly containing himself—continued over the phone, “and get this. They’re saying something about little men being onboard.”[10]

Before Sleppy could type out a mere couple of sentences, a bell rang on the teletype machine, indicating an outside interruption. McBoyle, meanwhile, started to argue with someone in the background and the discussion became more intense as it went along. Moments later he nervously told Sleppy, “Wait a minute, I’ll get back to you...wait...I’ll get right back.”[11]

He did not. The very next moment, the teletype came back on line and printed out the following:

ATTENTION ALBUQUERQUE: DO NOT
TRANSMIT REPEAT, DO NOT
TRANSMIT THIS MESSAGE. STOP COMMUNICATION
IMMEDIATELY

NATIONAL SECURITY MATTER.

In stunned disbelief, Sleppy observed that the message was from the FBI. No further attempt was made to transmit McBoyle's amazing story and the entire incident was effectively shut down. Another news source was prevented from disclosing the story from Roswell.

Within the next couple of days, with Mack Brazel already in custody, the U.S. military would finally coerce him to change his original story and then force him to put out a retraction throughout all the local media outlets. And in a final attempt to silence the press the Army continued to confiscate all documentation related to the incident—including the original press release they had distributed announcing the recovery of a flying saucer. Art McQuiddy was the managing editor of the *Roswell Morning Dispatch* in 1947 and stated to us that he had surrendered the press release back to the military after the balloon explanation came out. Newsrooms were disrupted, drawers were emptied of their contents, and desktops were cleared of any documentation that was contrary to the newly substituted weather balloon explanation. Merle Tucker, who owned a number of radio stations including KOAT, said that one of his sister stations in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was broken into and subjected to the same treatment. Al Stubbs, who worked for both newspapers, the *Dispatch* and *The Roswell Daily Record*, at one time or another reported they also were threatened by the military and, as a result, cooperated with their demands.

At a later time, Sleppy was speaking with McBoyle and broached the subject of the strange series of events related to the "crashed flying saucer story." The veteran reporter's response shocked her. "Forget about it. You never heard it. Look, you're not supposed to know. Don't talk about it to anyone."[12]

The final stake in the heart of a now moribund press corpse was administrated on July 9, 10, and 11 in the form of numerous "balloon photo-ops" throughout America orchestrated by the Army Air and the Signal Corps. Balloon launch demonstrations designed to impress and convince the media and the American people that these mundane devices (known as "Rawin" balloon-borne radar targets, which consisted of one or a cluster of Neoprene rubber balloons and one or more six-sided, tinfoil hexagonal kites) were responsible not only for the Roswell Incident but also for the flying saucer hysteria sweeping the nation. To the Pentagon's delight these staged shows

accomplished their mission. Reports of further flying saucer sightings plummeted in the press. Observations of unknowns continued throughout the remainder of the summer, but witnesses just stopped reporting them to the press.

As far as the media around the world was concerned, the Roswell saucer was nothing more than a weather balloon device. The radio and newspaper reporters in Roswell and throughout New Mexico, who had talked to the witnesses involved, knew better, but the future of their careers were placed in jeopardy for simply exercising their First Amendment right of freedom of the press. They were threatened into submission over an incident that, in their eyes, exceeded the concern for people's rights. No one challenged that authority, especially when it came down from New Mexico's own Washington congressional delegation, including the powerful Senator Dennis Chavez. After all these years, the question remains: What did the public official believe after the balloon explanation replaced the national security concern used to threaten the media into subverting the true story of Roswell —the very subversion he displayed an active role in reinforcing? Why did the powers-that-be tell him to secure such cooperation over his own constituents back in New Mexico? It is unlikely the good senator was ever told the truth. Long after his passing, when we interviewed his chief aid, the late General Michael Rexford, Chavez refused to ever talk about the matter again.

When the illegal and reprehensible conduct employed by the U.S. Government, as described herein, to "censor" the Roswell Incident is combined with that very same treatment to scores of firsthand eyewitnesses, both military and civilian, it speaks to the magnitude of the situation they faced. Many witnesses testified, albeit reluctantly, after a lifetime of fear of reprisal, describing the shameful behavior of the very individuals sworn to protect them. Clearly, the stakes outweighed the highest limits of logical, sensible containment of any other national security concern—even beyond that of a mundane Project Mogul balloon. Those who have suffered the wrath of a government more concerned about its own security stand in defiance to what they unanimously proclaim: that a flying saucer crashed in the high desert of eastern New Mexico and was recovered and subsequently covered up by elements of the U.S. Government, with acquiescence of the U.S. political establishment. The same cannot be said about the American press, which was forced into submission and remains forever scarred for relinquishing those very freedoms established by that same government.

3
“YOU’LL HAVE TO TALK WITH MY LAWYER”

“I believe the flying saucers come from outer space, piloted by beings of superior intelligence.”
—William Lear, founder of the Lear Jet Corporation, with 120 patents to his name

“These extraterrestrial explorers are separated from us by a gigantic barrier higher than the Himalayas—which is our retarded technical knowledge and our haughty ignorance.”
—Gabriel Voisin, French aviator who created Europe’s first manned, heavier-than-air, powered flight

As old military officers are so often inclined to do, the late General DuBose was not shy about elaborating on the revolving-door situation at the secretarial pool at the Carswell AAF back in 1947. According to him, his boss, General Ramey, chief architect of the Roswell cover-up, led the procession of ladies to serve his needs beyond office duties at that time. Ramey, a classic example of one who suffered from a “Napoleon Complex,” was between marriages and, according to his former chief of staff, took advantage of his newly found bachelor status.

In Walter Haut’s photo archives there remain many pictures of RAAF base commander “Butch” Blanchard and his PIO Haut, both big, statuesque men escorting some dignitary about the base with the diminutive, slight-in-presence, Ramey bringing up the rear behind the others—even though he was the senior officer on base at the time. In 1947, Ramey was a one-star brigadier general and went on to acquire two more stars. Blanchard, a full-bird colonel at that time, went on to become a four-star general in the same time Ramey achieved two. Blanchard was indeed a wunderkind who had been groomed from the moment he was enrolled at West Point to go all the way to Joint Chiefs of Staff. Ramey would become a “consultant” to the Air Force’s Project Blue Book and was called their “Saucer Man.” The point is: The skeptics have totally revised history and have turned the picture completely around. Ramey was the smartest person in the room after Blanchard made such a blunder over in Roswell. The late CIA scoffer Karl “Kurt Peters” Pflock called the four-star Blanchard a “loose cannon,” which

clearly demonstrates the folly of their consistent smear campaign.

Blanchard was a devout Catholic, which leads us to the belief that he would have instructed the base chaplain to perform last rites on the recovered bodies. True to his spiritual faithfulness, throughout the course of our 30-year investigation, not once have we heard the slightest inference that the same shenanigans bragged about over at Fort Worth ever took place at Roswell. The loyalty and lifetime support exuded by Walter Haut toward his former boss exemplifies that same attitude carried on by Blanchard's own secretarial staff—more specifically, his executive secretary, June Blair.

RAAF Base Commander Colonel William Blanchard. PHOTO CREDIT: USAF

June was a native of Roswell and was ranked third in her graduating high school class. A year later she would marry E. Frank Blair, also of Roswell, in Chicago, where he was stationed with the Navy aviation cadet program in Glenview, Illinois. Completing that training, he was next assigned to the Naval Station at Norfolk, Virginia, where he served active duty until the end of World War II. All Naval air squadron pilots who fought in WWII trained out of Norfolk. For June, it provided her with a lifetime military career beginning with the U.S. Army at Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation. This

was an Army command facility that managed the movement of cargo and personnel in conjunction with the Navy. As soon as the opportunity arose they moved back to Roswell. Her husband took a civilian job with the base and June was hired to work at the headquarters of the RAAF as the new executive secretary to the base commander, Colonel William Blanchard. Just one year later, she observed some of the most sensitive activity and discussions surrounding an event for which none of them were prepared. Her boss became one of the central figures in July 1947, and it remains inconceivable that she possessed nothing more than a casual knowledge of the situation. Given she was at headquarters, and possessed a top security clearance, she also would have been privy to most of the other officers' activities concerning the crash of the unknown object north of town.

The reader should be reminded that Blanchard took the entire 1947 incident very seriously. His first wife, Ethel, recalled that he had come home in a very agitated state and told her that a flying saucer had crashed in the desert near Roswell. He told her about the little bodies: "They're human, but they're not," and the strange writing, "...looks like Russian, but it isn't." She also added that her husband had been "very upset and beside himself."[1]

Not in any position of authority or making any decisions, June's eyes and ears were free to act as a sponge and absorb every minute detail without distraction of thought and contemplation. We suspected that June Blair was basically an encyclopedia regarding the entire Roswell Incident. And so, the search began.

June was especially devoted to her boss and, like Walter Haut, she promised Blanchard never to utter another word about what she knew to be the truth about 1947. Still, we were determined to not only learn of her whereabouts, but eager to talk with her and test the waters as to her cooperation. My investigative partner Tom Carey had the good fortune when she actually picked up the phone. The conversation was brief, though cordial, and she did acknowledge that she was Blanchard's secretary. Still, it was a stranger calling and she did not care to say anything further over the phone. After providing her address, she instructed Tom to call the next time we were in town and maybe a meeting could be arranged. Hope springs eternal and two months later, within a short time after touching down at the airport, we quickly called. June answered, but this time she was prepared. "You'll have to talk with my lawyer"[2] were the only words she sternly said and then hung up the phone. Lest we be accused of harassment, we did contact her attorney

who flatly warned us, “She has nothing to say about the matter.”[3] Back to the drawing board.

Next, the author attempted a call to her sister Ada Robinson. It started out as a lighthearted, social exchange until Ada blurted out, “We can talk about anything except 1947.” Previously, it had not even come up and the purpose for the call beyond June working at the RAAF was not given. Ada was then asked, “Have you and your sister ever talked about 1947 and what happened back then?” Her only comment, yet wonderfully telling was, “Let’s just say that on occasion we have talked about life on other planets.” With renewed enthusiasm, the author asked, “May I call you again?” Ada responded, “Yes, but I have nothing to say about 1947.”[4]

In previous tomes, we have gone into great detail concerning the figurative “uncle-nephew” relationship between Walter Haut and William Blanchard. The greatest testimony to that bond was when the 51-year-old four-star general was stricken by a massive heart attack at his desk at the Pentagon. Washington contacted Haut immediately—not by phone or letter, but by special courier, who personally delivered the tragic news to Haut at his home in Roswell. And for all of our failed efforts to provide Haut with an opportunity to tell the entire story about Roswell, we faced the identical dilemma with June Blair: Both of them had promised Blanchard not to say another word for as long as they lived. To their everlasting credit it genuinely speaks to the nobility of both individuals who were so close to the matter. True, national security, protection of loved ones, and secrecy oaths may have played into such loyalty. It may also be the reason that Walter and June remained close friends for the rest of their lives.

William Blanchard and RAAF Public Information officer Walter Haut. PHOTO CREDIT: IUFOMRC.

Speaking of protection of loved ones, one might argue that threats of bodily harm were reserved solely for the men and not the women involved. However, Haut's wife Lorraine "Pete" received regular phone threats for almost 30 years. Each time the phone would ring in the early hours of the morning, the warnings were the same: "If you ever tell the truth about 1947, your lives will be in jeopardy."[5] As a result, it becomes quite reasonable to assume that June Blair was on their calling list and she was hardly in a position to retaliate.

It was the Hauts' own daughter, the late Julie Shuster, who informed us of how close her parents remained to the Blairs. She said that each year the Blairs returned to Roswell and they always came to visit. When Haut passed away on December 15, 2005, the Blairs attended the services, including the burial at South Park Cemetery in Roswell. It should be noted that the one and only thing they had in common was both serving at the RAAF headquarters in 1947. Walter shockingly resigned from the military a year later. At the same time, June went on maternity leave, expecting their first and only child, Steven, who was born on February 9, 1949. She then stepped down from her secretarial position at the base, not to return for another five years, but then as a Federal Court Reporter.

Shuster offered to speak with June's sister Ada, who she knew personally.

She was taken aback when she was subjected to the same standoffish reaction from Ada as we experienced. Her main line of defense was twofold. Due to the fact that both June and her husband worked on the base back in 1947, there was a mutual decision never to discuss the incident again. “We both promised our husbands.” Secondly, “Because of their strong religious beliefs, the people of Roswell weren’t ready to hear what they knew. They would never see life the same way again.”[5] A pretty direct caveat from one who claimed discussions with June about “life on other planets.” It remains laughable to imagine that such concern was over a weather balloon. For either lady, just as for all the other witnesses involved, they could have stopped us in our tracks with a flat, “It was a balloon. Now leave me alone!”

For many years, whenever there was a family gathering including relatives such as Jack and Mary Rodden and John Turner, the subject of 1947 often came up. “She had absolutely no desire to even discuss it. The moment anyone so much as made a comment she would turn and walk away,”[6] described Jack Rodden. Turner added, “You’re never going to get her to say anything. The entire family has tried for 50 years. They either scared her badly or she truly knows what’s at stake.”[7]

Still, we remained persistent and laid out a plan with our main contact in the city where the Blairs resided at that time. The plan was to confront her at her home with someone she might remember—someone who was stationed at the RAAF back in 1947. After one failed attempt at the Blair residence, the next time our associate was accompanied by one of the last relevant witnesses we still had in our stable—he had seen the bodies. It was a cold blustery December day in 2009. The two waited outside the front gate when a small-statured, short, grey-haired elderly woman opened the front door and approached them. “You are Mrs. June Blair?” our contact asked. “Who needs to know and why?” retorted the woman. After a quick introduction our witness immediately began recounting his own experience back at Roswell in 1947. “I really need to speak with you about this,”[8] he pleaded. With that remark, she said she had an appointment, said goodbye, and went back into the house. The two stood there agape at what just transpired. We were running out of time.

There were two more visits to the Blair residence and there were no further contacts with her. At that point all we could do was have letters sent on our behalf from two associates in her community. Throughout the course

of two years there was no response. She would not pick up the phone and the message was received loud and clear: “She has nothing to say about the matter.”

June Blair had officially entered our “reluctant witness” club—those stalwart individuals who either maintained resistance or untruthfulness when approached about the events in 1947. When the Pentagon released its Mogul balloon report in 1994, Dr. Sheila E. Widnall, MIT graduate, aerospace scientist, and the first female Secretary of the Air Force absolved all “Air Force” personnel of any security oaths related to the Roswell Incident. All of which the well-informed press failed to pick up on; officially, Roswell was an Army affair and Widnall would not have had any authority over another branch of the armed forces. Many a potential witness laughed in our faces when shown the Air Force’s clearance, pointing out that very conundrum. The same could be said about the countless widows, sons, and daughters who have slammed down telephones in our ears and doors in our faces with a parting shout of, “He never said anything!”[9]

By now the reader should be asking: To what avail? Whose benefit? After 70 years, what would still necessitate the need to withhold information about a Mogul balloon declassified 40 years ago? It is so easy to just sit on the sidelines and only discredit those brave enough to finally speak out. But what about all the June Blairs who have decided the world couldn’t deal with the reality of 1947? They chose to take all they knew with them, depriving the world of one of the greatest stories in recorded history. Statistically, we are easily talking about the vast majority of witnesses, most of them officers with pensions and careers at stake. But what about the underlings who followed their orders—the secretaries like June Blair who would be asked to “never” say another word about 1947? She was a federal employee for 41 years and she had a comfortable government pension at stake, but that again raises the question of government reprisal for violation of a secrecy oath, which has apparently extended long after the official answer was declassified—no risk of reprisal. No, Roswell remains something much more sinister and more foreboding. There was a fear instilled in all of those unfortunates who lived out the balance of their lives with a figurative gun pointed at their heads. A tall order indeed for something mundane or, as Jack Rodden so eloquently put it, “At times I often wondered if June was amused by all the ramblings of those who think they know the answers. Like ants they all scurry about and they have no idea.”[10]

First their only child, Steven, passed away, followed by her husband Frank, and on March 8, 2013, June passed away as well. She kept her promise and, sadly, the world is less for it.

4
“GO TALK TO THE PEOPLE OVER AT ROSWELL”

“One thing is absolutely certain; we are being watched by beings form outer space.”
—Albert M. Chop, former Air Force press official assigned to the Pentagon

“I believe extraterrestrial intelligences are watching the Earth and have been visiting us for millennia in their flying saucers.”
—Dr. Herman Oberth, German physicist and engineer, and one of the founding fathers of modern rocketry and astronautics

The late ABC-TV news anchor and producer Peter Jennings went out of his way to denigrate Roswell on his 2005 primetime special “The UFO Phenomenon: Seeing Is Believing.” Continuously calling it a “myth” and stating that there were “no credible witnesses,” the media icon was without a doubt mouthing government talking points. In fact, a former ABC reporter was tipped off weeks before the special aired, with the claim that Jennings originally planned on a more objective treatment of the case. Unlike the advanced preview copy, which was provided to the media, the 20-minute segment on Roswell was sent “elsewhere” for “approval,” as we were informed by our source. Quite a charge on the face of things but, considering the topic, we remained suspicious. But then came a rather curious request from Jennings’s producer, Gabrielle Telenbaum: “We need whatever B-roll (film footage) you have covering Roswell.”[1] A rather confusing demand considering we had spent four days filming in Roswell, including footage and witnesses out at the debris field. For some undisclosed reason they decided not to use a single frame of that material. In a rather unprecedented move on the part of ABC, discounting their own principle photography, they used dated film from CBS, NBC, and other media outlets. The original leak from the former ABC employee turned out to be correct. “Someone” didn’t like the original Roswell segment and with a mere week before the scheduled broadcast of the show, ABC was forced to purchase user rights to competitor’s material. I will leave it to the reader to speculate who pulled the original Roswell segment and why Jennings capitulated.

It continues to appear that it is in someone's best interest that Roswell be discredited. Even colleagues, growing more impatient in their older ages, strike out at Roswell. Though they still acknowledge the ongoing cover-up and that it was absolutely not a Mogul balloon, they increasingly find themselves attacking the case because time is now running out for them as well. We've all observed most of the original witnesses pass on, and now we're seeing the same with their children. Acrimonious UFO researchers have a long history of besmirching the cases with the greatest potential simply because the UFO event didn't fulfill their needs in the remaining time they have left. We have actually had colleagues encourage us with the belief that one could make a lot more fame and fortune if at first you build it (Roswell) up, and then you tear it down. Where have we heard these methods before?

I would like to issue a challenge to those still open-minded in their own quest for answers to consider the dynamics of the following scenario, the credentials of those involved, and how it evolved, without deviation, into a prima-facie example that endorses the true nature of Roswell—not that of those who remain myopic to any truth but their own. The following story took place years after the original 1947 affair and many years before Roswell was resurrected into the public arena. Read this account, and then entertain the possibility that it could be truthful. Then ask yourselves: What other explanation would suffice?

A shining example of an exemplary eyewitness is retired Air Force Lt. Colonel Sydney Johnston. Through the kind efforts of the late Nathan Twining, Jr., son of the famous general, we were introduced to Johnston, who had been a close friend of Nathan's father. Among his impressive list of accomplishments, Johnston was an aeronautical engineer and pilot serving in the Army Air Corps starting in 1944 during World War II. He flew 44 combat missions in a B-17 Flying Fortress Bomber originating from the United Kingdom into strategic German target areas. Taking note of his accomplishments, his superior officers called on him again for special flights, providing close air support for U.S. fighters and bombers during the Korean War. After retiring from the Air Force, he eventually found himself working at Northrop Aviation in Alamogordo, New Mexico, at Holloman Air Force Base as a test engineer. Wright Patterson worked in close tandem with this desert ground zero (just to the north, the first atomic bomb was detonated). Moreover, whatever T-2 Intelligence was fortunate enough to be taken apart

and put back together, rest assured most of the time it was additionally tested at Holloman.

One of their human guinea pigs with whom Sydney Johnston worked was Dr. John P. Stapp, who became famous as the “Rocket Man.” Many of us have seen the old footage of the man dressed like an astronaut, strapped into a rocket sled as it rifled across a barren desert floor, his face twisted and contorted like rubber as sudden G-forces were monitored and observed for their physiological effects. On December 10, 1954, the Sonic Wind No. 1 propelled Stapp in front of a Holloman rocket at an astonishing 632 miles per hour. Few know that John Paul Stapp was an MD, PhD, and Air Force Flight surgeon who earned the rank of colonel and pioneered the study of rapid acceleration and deceleration on the human body. The Aero Medical Laboratory and the Air Department Center at Wright Patterson (then Wright Field) originally conducted such tests in 1947 to test human tolerances in simulated aerial crashes.

Johnston also wrote the treatise on the Northrop SM-62 “Snark” cruise missile, which was the only surface-surface long-range guided missile from 1959 through 1961. Later, he was assigned to Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to assist in a project to ascertain the effects of the Van Allen Radiation belt on high-altitude rocket launches. There, he also served as a pilot and aide-de-camp for base commander Major General Daniel E. Hooks, Commander of the Office of Aerospace Research.

Dr. Knox Missaps was a famous mathematician specializing in thermodynamics who had previously worked in metallurgy at Wright Field in 1947. It was there that he worked with the T-3 branch, which was “Research and Development” under General Curtis LeMay at the Pentagon. During the 1950s, Missaps worked directly with base commander Hooks and Dr. Werner von Braun at the Air Research and Development Command (later to be redesignated as the Air Force Systems Command). Von Braun, the legendary German scientist, was almost single-handedly responsible for pioneering manned space flight. The defeat of Germany after World War II led to the advent of the American space program, and these men worked in the trenches whenever a rocket ascended into the heavens or exploded on the launch pad. The Pentagon’s dream of manned space flight was their conviction.

Now that we have set up the cast of players, we ask those of you still skeptical to envision the following scenario.

It was in the late 1950s that Johnston, Missaps, and the base commander

shared an office at Holloman. Missaps worked his desk between the other two. On one particular morning, Dr. Stapp made his daily stop for a cup of coffee and idle chat when Dr. Missaps joined them at Johnston's desk. However, routine discussion was not his intention. All at once, Missaps removed a peculiar item from inside his coat. It was roughly a foot-long and foot-wide square of "aluminum-like metal, about 3/16th of an inch thick. The edge of it was not cut but separated like it had a rough edge but straight."

"What do you think this is?" queried Missaps with a touch of ebullience in his voice. Johnston went on describing: "The more you squeezed it, the more tension you could feel. It was flexible, but the four corners were straight, which suggested that it was stretched to its limit and broke. We couldn't break it or even scratch it in any way...yet it was flexible. We put a cigarette lighter to one end of it, and it immediately became the same temperature all over."[2]

"I had no idea what it was so I asked Missaps if he knew," added the befuddled Johnston. The scientist responded, "I'd like to know too."

Johnston asked, "Where'd you get this?"

"Go talk to the people over at Roswell," suggested Missaps.

"What are you going to do?" either Stapp or Johnston inquired. He shrugged his shoulders and Missaps answered, "I've got to talk to somebody up at Wright Patterson about it."[3]

With that remark, Missaps took back the remarkable piece of metal and next went over to talk with the base commander. After another 15 minutes, Missaps rejoined the two other men and Johnston pressed again about the source of the amorphous material and its unusual characteristic.

What Missaps explained to him was the following: "A cowboy over at Roswell, who came over to Alamogordo to visit a friend or relative, presented him with this strange piece. The other man brought it to the base where his brother worked and brought it to my attention at headquarters. He wanted to know what it was but I couldn't identify it myself. Wright Patterson has a material lab, which is where I am taking it." Johnston closed, "As far as I know, Missaps took it to Wright Patterson and left it there. That was the last I ever heard about it."[4]

In July 2015, the author was contacted by medical doctor Cornelius Klaus Blesius. His desire was to refer me to the family of the late German scientist, Dr. Ernst Steinhoff, who was a member of the "von Braun rocket group" at

the Peenemunde Army Research Center in Northeast Germany during World War II. After the war, the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) granted asylum for more than 1,500 engineering scientists, formerly Nazi Party members, who surrendered at the fall of Berlin. In November 1945, Operation Paperclip was established at Fort Bliss, Texas, for the detention and interrogation of these technological “giants” with the objective of maintaining a scientific advantage over the Soviet Union. Steinhoff, a renowned aeronautics, meteorological, and engineering specialist, surrendered to the Allies along with Krafft Ehricke and Ernst Stuhlinger, and came to America under the most secret of conditions; the American public and most politicians in Washington knew nothing about captured Nazi scientists being placed in protective custody by the U.S. military. From 1945 through 1949, Steinhoff and his colleagues were able to continue their own research for the benefit of the United States military at Fort Bliss and at least 65 German aeronautical engineers were shipped over to Wright Field in 1947—again, unknown to the locals in Dayton, Ohio. During that time, as the White Sands Proving Grounds launched recovered German V-2 rockets, Steinhoff assisted the program with his design of guidance control and other breakthrough instrumentation. The RAND Corporation was a military think-tank established in 1946 in accordance with the Pentagon’s Research and Development Department. Steinhoff became a member in 1961, and he was one of the first and most vocal advocates of a manned mission to Mars and the establishment of a permanent base utilizing indigenous life-support materials.

Steinhoff was elected in 1979 to the New Mexico International Space Hall of Fame, joining good friends and colleagues Dr. Lincoln La Paz and Clyde Tombaugh, both famous astronomers well-known within UFO studies, not only for having had their own sightings, but also serving as Air Force consultants in related investigations. At one time, La Paz had accused the Air Force of “...a grand cover-up for something the government does not want discussed.”[5] That was 20 years after he was assigned by the Pentagon to investigate Roswell two months after the crash. Tombaugh was critical of their colleagues as well, citing, “I am a professional, highly skilled, professional astronomer...I think that several reputable scientists are being unscientific in refusing to entertain the possibility of extraterrestrial origin and nature.”[6]

Now, to complete the puzzle, Dr. Blesius arrived from Germany in 1965

and met Steinhoff at a hospital in New Jersey. They soon became friends because of their mutual heritage and would invite the medical doctor to visit him at his home in Alamogordo. Blesius confided to me that in 1973 Steinhoff described to him that he and numerous other scientists within Paperclip were authorized and escorted by federal agents to travel into New Mexico for some undisclosed purpose. They were taken to an apparent crash site north of Roswell and asked to examine the most unusual wreckage *in situ* (undisturbed as it first appeared upon arrival). It was unlike anything any of them had seen before, as they were not allowed to take any of the pieces for study. According to Steinhoff, it was the German scientist's impression that the Americans wanted to be sure it wasn't of foreign design. They assured them it was not. Later, they would hear from colleagues that much of the physical proof was "buried beneath a hangar at Wright Field."[7] He then asked his friend not to say anything until after he was dead.

For years, we have heard of Paperclip's involvement and, albeit second-hand, the information came from a most reliable source. Faced with the reality that all of the German scientists from 1947 are long gone, as is also the case with almost all the Roswell witnesses, we are now left to speak with their surviving families. The same situation now applies to the family of Dr. Ernst Steinhoff, who passed away on December 2, 1987, at the age of 79. The famous rocket scientist had two sons, Hans Joachim and Ralph. It was the younger son, Ralph, who floored us with the revelation about who actually told him all about Roswell. It was never his father, long under the watchful eyes of federal agents, who claimed to have direct participation. When the subject arose, Steinhoff warned his son, "Those that know don't talk and those who talk don't know."[8] For Ralph, someone unceremoniously did talk, and it happened to be someone who erstwhile did know. While driving together from Alamogordo to a special occasion in Roswell, it was none other than Dr. John Stapp, the "Rocket Man," who admitted to him that "Roswell was true" and he remained "...especially interested in the 'composition' of the wreckage."[9] And as the great radio legend Paul Harvey would say, "Now you know the rest of the story."[10]

5
SILENCING A CONGRESSMAN 50 YEARS LATER

"It is highly improbable they exist. The view that UFOs are hallucinatory will be a subject of our investigation, to discover what it is that makes people imagine they see things."

—Dr. Edward U. Condon, director of the Condon Committee. Condon was also at the Bureau of Standards in Washington in 1947 when debris from Roswell was sent there for testing and analysis

"The Air Force has constantly misled the American public about UFOs...I urge Congressional action to reduce the danger from secrecy."

—Vice-Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, Pacific Commander of Intelligence, first director of the CIA

The greatest obstacle that faced dying Jesse Marcel in 1978 was that he had no physical proof. For 30 years he remained the good soldier—the good "patsy"—in the continuing cover-up of the Roswell Incident. When he accepted, or, more accurately, was ordered to assume that role, he was promised full vindication in maybe five years...then 10, then 15, then 25.... Thirty years after the incident, diagnosed with terminal emphysema and with little contemplation that he was to remain the Roswell "expendable," he finally spoke out. If not him, who else would risk the retaliation of the secret-keepers? For three decades he remained the eponymous hero for those who espoused the weather balloon tale. He was already dying and, in his mind, he only had so much time to set the record straight. Of all the revealing details he began to disclose about the wreckage, the most telling of his confessions was "It was not an aircraft of any kind; that I am sure of. We didn't know what it was. It was nothing made on the Earth."[1] But still, he had no proof....

My greatest regret through the course of our investigation into Roswell is that we never had the chance to meet the man whose name has become synonymous with the case: Jesse Marcel. We have seen all of the recorded and videotaped interviews of the long-deceased intelligence officer, but the one activity that no previous researcher even ventured was to take him back to the "scene of the crime," so to speak, and have him walk through the entire scenario. Oh, how we would have relished the opportunity to take him back

to the old Foster ranch and gain a full appreciation beyond just words, no matter how picturesque.

Three years after Marcel's passing in 1986, rather than seeking his restitution, we sought to indict him once again—to forever cast his words of otherworldly phenomenon to those professed by a mere charlatan. And as we experienced our own illumination and soon realized that Roswell was truly a significant event, I began to envy those who met the man—those who sought the truth from one who lived it—the man who, more accurately, was the eponymous hero of the flying saucer reality. Next, to finish the job that Marcel started....

"Last fall [1992] I became aware of a strange series of events beginning in New Mexico over 45 years ago involving personnel of what was then the Army Air Force. I have since reviewed the facts in some detail, and I am writing to request your assistance in arriving at a definitive explanation of what transpired and why."[2]

So began the first of three such requests to then Secretary of Defense Les Aspin. Although the city of Roswell was not part of his district, the late Congressman Steven Schiff was compelled to become personally involved, citing, "Most Americans don't believe they were told the full story [about Roswell] by their government."[3] Representative Schiff was not amused with the Secretary's failure to respond. The "facts" reviewed, which inspired Schiff to look into the continuing mystery of Roswell, were provided by our investigation. During the previous months, eyewitness testimony transcripts and sworn affidavits were sent to the Congressman's chief aid, Mary Martinek. We would soon be asked to meet with Schiff at his office at the Rayburn Building in Washington. For the first time in 45 years, it appeared that Roswell would finally receive the political muscle needed to take the investigation to the next level. At first, the secret-keepers tried to simply brush us away like flies. Now we had good calling to persist.

As was stated, the Secretary of Defense declined to respond, but taking his lead from the Air Force on all matters UFO-related, his proxy, USAF Director of Plans and Operations Colonel Lawrence G. Shockley, referred Schiff to the National Archives. Sensing a lack of cooperation, Schiff again sent another letter to Aspin. This time, Special Assistant Rudy de Leon reiterated the suggestion of seeking data from the Archives as "...these records are too old to be available here at the Pentagon."[4] As before, the

congressman, growing more impatient, did not heed such advice and immediately fired another letter to Aspin with the concern, saying, "...my staff and several independent investigators have conclusively established they [Roswell files] are not in any of the unclassified, including previously classified, holdings of the National Archives. Moreover, it is my understanding that it is highly unlikely they reside in any of the classified files in the custody of the Archives."[5] Growing more frustrated with any sign of effort on the part of the Pentagon, Schiff emphatically closed his demand with the statement, "However, I expect the job to be done and my request to be addressed as set forth in the penultimate paragraph of my March letter..."[6] He was referring to his original request, which read "Therefore, Mr. Secretary, I respectfully request that you direct such a review [for Roswell-related files] be undertaken on a priority basis and that a representative or representatives of the department of defense and the responsible Military Departments promptly arrange to brief and provide me with a written report providing a current, complete, and detailed description and explanation of both the nature of what was recovered and all official actions taken on the matter."[7] Demonstrating their unwillingness to provide anything of substance, the DOD, as they did previously, tossed the hot potato to the Archives as they read from the same scripted pat answer that they continue to cite up until today: "The Air Force is no longer in the UFO business, go talk to someone who gives a ..."[8] What the Air Force still refuses to concede is that Blue Book did not investigate UFO reports that concerned national security and the now-declassified files are far from intact. In fact, given the nature of the Roswell Incident and the high level of government suppression it apparently solicited, is it any wonder that there remains and surely never was any such file at the Archives. Schiff was now finished with their shell game. "Typically, the Pentagon is eager to comply with congressional requests for information, yet they just shunted us off to the Archives,"[9] remarked a frustrated Schiff to his spokesman, J. Barry Bitzer.

Keeping in mind that the Air Force pleaded ignorance when it came to an official inquiry into Roswell by a senior congressman, the Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Sheila E. Widnall assured Schiff that if any files on Roswell were thereafter discovered, he would be the first to see them. Dissatisfied with the DOD response, Schiff stated, "I was pretty clearly getting the run-around. Generally, I'm a skeptic...but there are indications ...whatever it was,

it wasn't a balloon. Apparently, it's another government cover-up."[10]

His next move was to enlist congress's own investigative arm, the General Accounting Office (GAO), to prepare a report on the status of government records related to Roswell. On January 12, 1994, eight months after failing with the Pentagon, Schiff announced that the GAO would be initiating a review of the DOD's policies and procedures for acquiring, classifying, retaining, and disposing of official governmental documents dealing with weather balloons, aircraft, and similar crash incidents. It was no surprise that the investigation would focus on the Air Force, but they were secretly conducting their own search for another conventional explanation. The Air Force needed a "preemptive strike,"[11] as *Newsweek* magazine called it, not to appease Schiff, but rather to shut down any further inquiry into Roswell. One source within the GAO commented, "...we do believe that something did happen at Roswell. Something big. We don't know if it was a plane that crashed with a nuclear device on it...or it was some other experimental situation. But everything we've seen so far points to an attempt on the part of the Air Force to lead anybody that looks at this down another track."[12]

All while the GAO was seeking out documents from different military branches to determine whether they followed proper procedures during the time of Roswell, the main target of the probe sprang a charade intended to supersede anything new the GAO might uncover. On July 27, 1994, the Pentagon held a press conference to address the rising concern about what actually happened back in 1947. Colonel Richard L. Weaver, the director of security and special program oversight for the USAF, acknowledged that yes, indeed, the Air Force had "lied" regarding the original balloon explanation. As an alternative explanation, they were now proposing a new "theory" as to what most likely caused all the elite members of the first atomic bomb squadron in the world to mistakenly identify it as a downed UFO. The total disconnect to the entire Roswell affair was that the new "theory," albeit a Top Secret project in the summer of 1947, had long been declassified and, more importantly, was the same weather balloon device with a few modifications. A balloon, constructed entirely of "off-the-shelf" material, which any child would recognize, was once again the culprit. But this time, the Air Force was giving it a name which, to the unwashed, would become forever associated with Roswell. For all the denial of available files to Congressman Schiff on the incident, on July 27, 1994, the Air Force delivered *The Roswell Report: Fact versus Fiction in the New Mexico Desert.* Project Mogul, the clandestine

effort to listen at the upper atmosphere with balloons equipped with radio "microphones" should the Soviet Union detonate their first atomic bomb, was conspired to halt any further spying into the case. According to the Air Force, Roswell was still a weather balloon—the same materials with slight alterations, but now part of a Top Secret project. One of its chief arbiters, who was apparently prepping the Air Force all along, was the late CIA operative, Karl Pflock. Anyone aware of the snail's pace at which government bureaucracies perform should be a bit taken aback by that fact. To this day, Pflock's motives remain suspect, as he relocated (was assigned?) to Albuquerque, New Mexico, during the same time period in which Schiff was spearheading his own efforts in Washington. Pflock departed Washington, leaving his wife there, while he placed himself in earshot of Roswell. The closet-skeptic typically lured researchers and witnesses into his confidence by publicly stating, as he did in his 1994 book *Roswell in Perspective*, "There is no longer any reasonable basis for believing the weather balloon 'explanation' for the Roswell events. Whatever happened, whatever was retrieved, it is clear there was nothing routine or mundane about it."[13] All during this time he was providing the Air Force with much of the pro-balloon data contained in their Project Mogul report as he continued to camouflage the true nature of his perfunctory involvement.

Of the hundreds of potential witnesses represented by Congressman Schiff, the Air Force refused to interview any with a contrary viewpoint. Clearly, their position was to totally ignore the message while castigating the messengers. Witnesses and researchers alike were chastised as money mongers looking to profit from such a fanciful tale. The national media had a field day with the announcement and I, for one, immediately accepted that our working relationship with the congressman was over.

With much trepidation, I called Congressman Schiff's office in Washington fearing the worst. "Don, they're a bunch of goddamn liars!" snapped Schiff. He recognized stall-tactics and he encouraged me to wait until the GAO report. "Let's hope they get to the bottom of all this. Tell all the witnesses to be patient and hope for the best,"[14] he humbly closed.

As we had anticipated, similar to the Air Force, the GAO was not interested in taking statements from witnesses. There remained specific reluctant officers who were unwilling to break security oaths; we can only imagine what deep, dark secrets they maintained. There exists a specific espionage clause, accessible to members of congress, that enables them to

subpoena any American citizen, whether military or civilian, in possession of any classified information. They can then be provided with congressional immunity to testify behind closed doors, after which a determination is made as to whether their testimony can be declassified. To our distain, the only investigation employed by the GAO was to conduct a document search for any patterns of government misuse of federal funding. This was done systematically by simply requesting of each branch of the military as well as departments of intelligence any documents they preserved in their own systems pertained to Roswell. Nevertheless, a GAO representative prematurely stated, “What we have found so far is that the Air Force has not told Schiff the whole truth. But we aren’t pursuing the truth, either. All our auditors have done is verify that some of the information that was given to Mr. Schiff was very wrong.[15]

In a rather unceremonious affair, the GAO released its report to Schiff a year and a day after the Air Force stole all the fanfare. What had taken the Air Force mere months in establishing a new “theory,” it took the GAO longer than a year for a 20-page summation. In order for the search to be fully extensive, all requests for cooperation took a prolonged period of time to comply. Nevertheless, not a single branch or department, including the CIA, NSA, White House, and Energy Department solicited for documents could find anything, except for one lone FBI Telex, which we already had in our document roster. The report, entitled the *Results of a Search for Records Concerning the 1947 Crash near Roswell, New Mexico* did manage to establish one dramatic defense for the Air Force’s original claim of not possessing any Roswell files: They had all been destroyed! According to the GAO report, all Roswell Army Air Field records from that relevant period had been inexplicably eliminated. These include RAAF administrative records from March 1945 through December 1949 as well as outgoing messages from October 1946 through December 1949.

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Congressman: 'UFO' papers were destroyed

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Key military documents on the so-called Roswell Incident, cited by UFO buffs as an alien crash, were apparently destroyed without authorization decades ago, a congressman said Saturday.

Rep. Steve Schiff of New Mexico said a General Accounting Office report shed no new light on the 1947 crash and showed that important documents are missing.

"Documents that should have provided more information were destroyed," Schiff said. "The military cannot explain who destroyed them or why."

Schiff said the GAO estimates the information was destroyed more than 40 years ago.

The Air Force has said that the wreckage was probably a balloon launched as part of a classified government project to detect Soviet nuclear weapons.

The GAO report, released Friday, said that two government documents are the only official records remaining of the crash near what was then the Roswell Army Air Force Base.

'Alien' crash said to be test dummies

Associated Press

Albuquerque, N.M. — A new Air Force report concludes that the "alien bodies" that were supposedly covered up along with the crash of a flying saucer in Roswell in 1947 were actually crash-test dummies used in parachute experiments, a UFO skeptic says.

Air Force spokeswoman Gloria Cales said Friday that a follow-up report to the 1994 debunking of the so-called Roswell Incident would be released Tuesday, but she refused to discuss details.

However, a publisher of the Skeptics UFO Newsletter said he had seen the report and it concluded that dummies used in high-altitude parachute tests in the late 1950s were the basis of reports of alien bodies.

"The theory is that some of these reports of alien bodies might have been mistaken memories of some experiments that the Air Force conducted in New Mexico in the late 1950s, 10 years later, using dummies to test high-altitude parachutes," said Philip Klass, publisher of the Skeptics UFO Newsletter in Washington.

UFO believers dismissed the report's suggestions.

"I'm sure I saw those aliens," said Frank Kaufmann, 80, a retired government intelligence agent. He and several military colleagues were sent to investigate a falling fireball and found a crashed spaceship and five dead aliens in July 1947, he said.

Deon Crosby, director of the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, said the explanation was an "insult to humankind."

The media reacts to statements made by Congressman Steven Schiff. PHOTO CREDIT: IUFOMRC.

"It is my understanding that these outgoing messages were permanent records, which should never have been destroyed. The GAO could not identify who destroyed the messages or why,"[16] lamented Schiff. We are left

to believe and accept that the only atomic bomb force in the world at that time existed in a vacuum, and important documentation pertaining to its daily functioning and exercises in the defense of our country were of no historic or strategic value and were casually discarded. If such records were destroyed or more likely hidden, yet still preserved at some unknown place to prevent access from prying eyes, what are they hiding? Coincidence in government affairs is seldom the solution. The GAO report concluded, “The debate over what crashed at Roswell continues.”[17]

“At least this effort caused the Air Force to acknowledge that the crashed vehicle was no weather balloon,”[18] retorted Schiff. But everyone, including the media, completely missed the point; that’s precisely what they were still claiming—just a variation on the same theme. Same rubber balloons, wooden struts, reflective foil, and string. And the greater argument standing, no one in the Air Force, or anyone else for that matter, can place a balloon device on the Foster ranch in July of 1947. Enter Dr. Charles B. Moore....

The man in charge of the Mogul project in 1947 had the following to say about any form of balloon being responsible for the Roswell debris field: “There wasn’t a balloon in use back in ’47, or even today for that matter, that could have produced debris over such a large area or torn up the ground in any way. I have no idea what such an object might have been, but I can’t believe a balloon would fit such a description.”[19] That was the first time that meteorological physicist Charles B. Moore was asked to comment on the newly discovered data by William Moore in 1979. But 25 years later, the former Mogul engineer had a much higher calling: the Air Force needed their own authority to endorse their new “theory.”

Moore had initially been recruited by the Army Air Corps by his meteorological training school and was assigned the New York University constant altitude balloon project. This is where Project Mogul was born and, under the supervision of Dr. James Peoples and assisted by Dr. Albert P. Crary, Moore engineered pressure sensors controlling the release of ballast in large clusters of Neoprene rubber balloons to maintain a relatively constant altitude—all which was necessary for Mogul to be successful. Still, the hypothesis looked good on paper, the balloon trains would reach the required height (albeit short-lived), and then they would quickly descend to the ground below. Moore would start to launch the Mogul balloons from Alamogordo, New Mexico, about 100 miles south of the Foster ranch, beginning in June of

1947. But in 1993, the Air Force needed Moore to put such a device where they needed it most: not at a predetermined altitude as it was designed, but on the ground, untracked and lost, only to be discovered by a “hick” cowboy and then misidentified by a bunch of “Keystone Cops” over at Roswell, who just happened to be in charge of the atomic bomb. Whatever it takes, Dr. Moore.... Put it on the Foster ranch.

The trick was to establish the targeted crash site from the point of the launch and reconfigure the wind directions in the upper atmosphere (the jet stream), then plot a trajectory based on one specific Mogul launch: Flight No. 4. Aerologist Moore was once again getting his marching orders from the Air Force and without reservation he complied. Based on total assumption and completely false data supplanted from other flights, Moore concocted weather-wind charts that could potentially put Flight No. 4 near the Foster ranch. The greater problem was that, according to the diary of Dr. Albert Crary, the project leader, Launch 4 was comprised of only a cluster of rubber balloons and a “sono buoy” microphone, but was totally absent of any array trains—no reflective foil kites that the Air Force would still have us believe confused the Roswell military into believing it to be pieces of a flying saucer. And to further discredit Moore’s claims in support of the Air Force’s Mogul report, there remains absolutely no flight data for No. 4. There is no launch time indicated, no ground trajectory, and no recovery site specified. The only documentation still available is Crary’s log entry, which reads:

> Jun. 4 Wed. Out to Tularosa Range and fired charges between 00 and 06 the am. No [Mogul] balloon flights again on account of clouds. Flew regular sono buoy up in cluster of balloons and had good luck on receiver on ground but poor on plane. Out with Thompson pm. Shot charges from 1800 to 2400.

The launch site in Alamogordo is 85 miles from the Foster ranch and Moore had to create a flight course to fit the Air Force’s model: fill in the gap with no time, no ground observation, and no recovery—a total fabrication. It was standard practice in 1947, as it still is today, when balloons are released into the atmosphere with special equipment in need of outside retrieval, they carry special identification tags not only offering a small reward, but also return instructions and handling warnings if necessary. The Mogul balloons carried multiple identification tags, yet not one was ever recovered at the debris field location. The balloon train pictured in General Ramey’s office identified to the press as the very balloon recovered from the debris field is

not a Mogul balloon. The cellophane tape used to assemble the kites with painted floral designs, which Moore claimed were misidentified by the witnesses as strange hieroglyphic-like symbology on the actual wreckage, was said to be manufactured by a toy store called Merrick in New York City. No such company existed in 1947. These and other damning inconsistencies leave any likelihood that a Mogul balloon was responsible for what crashed (balloons don't "crash") outside of Roswell in 1947 a non-starter. Each and every detail has had to be twisted and manipulated to make it fit. No wonder Congressman Schiff called the Air Force "a bunch of goddamn liars."

On July 28, 1995, Moore's office put out a "news release" stipulating that because the GAO could not identify who destroyed the messages (from Roswell in 1947), or why, that making further inquiry about their destruction would be impractical.

But the damage control wasn't over for the Air Force, as Roswell refused to just slink away and await another opportunity to strike. There remained one more feature in the Roswell mythos that they, in all likelihood, should have left alone: the numerous accounts of little bodies associated with the 1947 incident. As long as there were surviving witnesses to still challenge the "official" version of events, the debate continued. And with the 50th anniversary of the incident looming in 1997, the press would once again elevate the story in the international press. Another pre-emptive strike was at hand, but what the Pentagon pulled out of its bag of tricks was not only a hoax on the American people, it was also outright laughable.

In June 1997, the headquarters of the U.S. Air Force published *The Roswell Report: Case Closed.* This would be the third attempt at their "last word" in the past three years. The 231-page report was authored by Captain James McAndrew, who had coauthored the Mogul report with Colonel Weaver in 1994.

The new study not only intended to reinforce the previous Mogul explanation, but also claimed that the "aliens" observed in the New Mexico desert were probably anthropomorphic wooden test dummies that were carried aloft by U.S. Air Force high-altitude balloons for scientific research. Code named Project "High Dive" and Project "Excelsior," there was one glaring dilemma that the military confounded by inventing a ridiculous malady to adduce one undeniable fact: The projects did not originate until 1953—six years after alleged bodies were witnessed in conjunction with the Roswell crash. In typical fashion, the government presented their solution

from on high: All of the witnesses to strange-appearing bodies at Roswell were suffering from “time compression.” They reasoned, “As we age, we not only begin to confuse the years but also the decades.”[20] There remains one fatal flaw in their solution to the time discrepancy: There is no such physiological ailment as defined or recognized by the professional medical field. The other dilemma facing the Air Force, as we immediately pointed out in a FAX sent to the Pentagon by us, “Most of the witnesses, specifically military witnesses who reportedly saw bodies associated with the crash of a craft of unknown origin in 1947 at Roswell, New Mexico, did no longer reside anywhere in New Mexico at the time the first test dummy drops took place in 1953.”[21] We received no thank you for our clarification and correction of their faulty assertion.

Congressman Schiff remained far from satisfied with the persistent ambiguity of the one branch of the military he had the greatest infinity toward. After all, it isn’t every day that a senior congressman lashes out at a specific branch of the armed forces and accuses them of illegal activity. And even more significant, it was coming from a colonel in the Air Force reserve. Schiff had just served two brief assignments on active duty in Bosnia and the Persian Gulf in 1991 after Operation Desert Storm.

The Air Force officer was beginning to see that the fix was in and the target on his back was only growing larger. Undeterred, the good congressman told me, “Don, I need to get re-elected. Then we’ll talk and go after them one more time.”[22] Unfortunately, none of us knew that time runs out, especially for those heroic enough to challenge the secret-keepers. Four months before the Air Force unleashed its last-last-last word on Roswell, Congressman Schiff was diagnosed with an extreme form of squamous-cell skin cancer, which soon metastasized as it spread around his neck. Beginning in April 1997, the congressman was no longer able to serve out his term in Washington and conducted his remaining political obligations from his home. By January 1998, the determined statesman realized the fight was lost and announced he would not run for re-election. Just as he had so valiantly fought the Roswell cover-up, he fought his most difficult enemy. On March 25, 1998, he died at the age of 51 at his home in Albuquerque.

For the Air Force, their continuing goal remained: to run out the clock on any other dissenters or any other elected official who would even think of picking up the gauntlet from the fallen congressman. Their plan was to build

on a theme that the public would always fall back on: Roswell was just a misidentified reconnaissance balloon used to spy on the Russians. Roswell was just a myth perpetrated by opportunistic writers who built their flimsy case on the testimony of unreliable witnesses. Case closed. And Project Mogul became a football to be spiked at every mention of Roswell. A typical example of such outright propaganda is promoted by the internet service *Wikipedia*. Without the slightest shred of balance or opposing viewpoint, the self-made online encyclopedia totally carries the ipso facto government position—all intended for the ignorant, unwashed as the final word on Roswell. Control the narrative and you control public opinion. But have they succeeded?

In 2004, seven years after the last and final explanation for Roswell was pronounced by the Air Force, then Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico stated, "The mystery surrounding this crash has never been adequately explained—not by independent investigators and not by the U.S. government."[23] And in 2012 *National Geographic* sponsored a national poll that determined 80 percent of Americans believe that the government is covering up what it knows about UFOs. As Hamlet retorted, "Ay, there's the rub."[24] And the venerable Steven Schiff died while trying to prove it.

6
THE TALE OF TWO SECRET AGENTS

"It was a cover story, the balloon part of it. That part of it was in fact the story we were told to give to the public and the news and that was it. The [actual] remnants...whatever happened to them, I have no knowledge."

—Brig. General Thomas J. DuBose, USAF

"I am almost completely convinced that the object that crashed near Roswell was composed of materials not common on earth."

—Major General Kenner F. Hertford, USA, former Chief of Research and Development

To date, the investigative team of Don Schmitt and Tom Carey has interviewed more than 600 witnesses directly or indirectly associated with the Roswell Incident of 1947. Of these, more than 150 were firsthand witnesses to something truly extraordinary and many of them, to their very deathbeds, broke decades of duly sworn silence to detail what they, themselves, personally experienced. To a man, woman, or child, each and every one of them has detailed events chronicled in numerous articles and in our best-selling books. Each and every soul brave enough to go on the public record and speak out against the cover-up of what truly transpired out in that New Mexican desert in the summer of 1947 has reinforced the position that the U.S. military first took when it put out a press release on July 8th, 1947, proclaiming to the world, the "capture of a flying disc." All of the witnesses agree with that statement—that is, except for one: the late, former Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) officer and forever-reluctant Roswell participant-witness Lt. Colonel Sheridan Cavitt.

Today, Sheridan Cavitt represents the only witness remaining for the "anti-Roswell" forces who maintain that what happened in July of 1947 was not the crash and retrieval of a craft of unknown origin by the U.S. military. Rather, it was merely the misidentified remains of a very common weather balloon and its attending radar target. Cavitt was a firsthand witness to the Roswell events as they were happening and was well placed enough to know what actually happened. This is in stark contrast to his original claims to us: total ignorance of what happened at Roswell.

When first approached by Roswell investigators in the early 1980s about his possible involvement in the incident, former Army Counter Intelligence Corps Captain Sheridan Cavitt at first denied that he ever knew a Major Jesse Marcel or that he was stationed at Roswell Army Air field (RAAF) in July 1947. Then, when confronted with documentation that he indeed had been stationed at Roswell at that time, Cavitt explained that, although it is true that he was stationed at Roswell, commencing in June of that year, he was actually on leave during the critical period (July 4–9) attending a wedding. Finally, he was confronted yet again with evidence to the contrary: testimony that placed him not only on the base at the time of the incident but, astonishingly, on the very ranch that the incident took place! And none other than the RAAF 509th Bomb Group's intelligence officer Major Jesse Marcel, Sr., described the two of them accompanying rancher Mack Brazel to the very spot he discovered the remains from the crash. All Cavitt could do in response was shrug his shoulders and ask, "Why would anyone say that?"[1]

A little background about the CIC is in order to demonstrate the significance of Cavitt first being sent out with Marcel to begin with. In 1947, the CIC provided intelligence to both the U.S. Army and to the Department of Defense. It was responsible for collecting, producing, and disseminating military and military-related "*foreign*" intelligence, including intelligence on indications, warnings, capabilities, tactical weapons, and equipment. The question then becomes obvious: Why was a CIC officer ordered to accompany intelligence officer Marcel out to the ranch? The answer is most significant and seldom addressed: As a CIC officer, Cavitt would have been in the best position to determine if the "*unidentifiable*" wreckage was a result of "*foreign*" design and origin. More evidence was required and the small amount that Brazel brought into Roswell was not sufficient to make that assessment.

It has been widely known since the late 1970s, when Jesse Marcel was first interviewed by media and investigators, that a plain-clothed CIC officer had accompanied Marcel and Brazel back to the Foster ranch on July 6th and 7th of 1947 to inspect the strange debris field that Brazel had reported to Chaves County Sheriff George Wilcox, to radio station KGFL announcer Frank Joyce, and finally to Marcel. Moreover, that man was former CIC Captain Sheridan Cavitt, which was also confirmed by official military documents and corroborated by others stationed at Roswell Army Airfield in 1947, including Cavitt's immediate subordinate in the CIC unit there, Master

Sergeant Lewis B. “Bill” Rickett.

During the course of numerous interviews conducted by researchers throughout the years (prior to his death in 1986 at the age of 78) Marcel stated that after reporting what he had seen of the Brazel debris in Sheriff Wilcox’s office to Colonel William Blanchard, commanding officer of the 509th Bomb Group at RAAF, Blanchard ordered Marcel to accompany Brazel back to the Foster ranch in Lincoln County to see exactly what was there, adding that Cavitt should go along with him. Marcel and Cavitt followed Brazel, Marcel in his own 1942 baby-blue Buick convertible, and Cavitt in a jeep carryall that Marcel had quickly checked out of the motor pool.

Upon arriving at the ranch on Sunday evening, July 6th, Marcel and Cavitt examined some of the larger pieces of debris that Brazel had stored in a small livestock shed. Since it was too late with the sun setting and three miles from the debris field, the three men decided to stay the night in the Hines House, a small bunkhouse located three miles north of the site in question. There, according to Marcel, they shared a can of cold beans and crackers as an evening repast.

At daybreak, Brazel and Cavitt saddled up horses (Cavitt was from San Angelo in West Texas and knew how to ride) while Marcel followed them to the debris field in the Army jeep. Once there, the 509th intelligence officer discovered an area about three-quarters of a mile long by several hundred feet wide covered with, among other items, bits and pieces of thin, foil-like, metallic debris the color of dulled aluminum with incredible strength and other peculiar properties. His immediate impression was that whatever had caused this scene must have exploded in the air rather than crashed on the ground. His firsthand account of what the wreckage looked and felt like (confirmed by his son Jesse Jr., to whom he had shown a portion of it in the very early morning of July 8th on his way back to the base), is well known. “Nothing made on this earth”[2] is how Marcel later described what he found in the grazing pasture that day. Jesse Marcel, Jr., 11 years old at the time, stated until his death in 2013 that his father was convinced—even at the time of that early morning investigation of the crash scene—that the debris his father displayed for he and his mother on their kitchen floor was from a flying saucer. At first, Brazel described the debris as “from one of them flying saucers,”[3] but later was coerced into recanting, saying that he “didn’t

have it quite right the first time."[4] The only other member of the threesome that went out to the crash site that day, Sheridan Cavitt, denied even being there.

Marcel's participation in the initial recovery effort was documented in the July 8th, 1947 edition of the *Roswell Daily Record*, and the same paper confirmed Brazil's involvement one day later. Cavitt, probably because of his counterintelligence role at RAAF, given that his primary duties involved working undercover and searching out Soviet spies, was not mentioned in either of the accounts.

The point here is not to debate what was found on the J.B. Foster ranch where the aforementioned events took place, but to merely identify the initial players, and more specifically to identify Sheridan Cavitt as one of the military team members along with Jesse Marcel, who accompanied Brazel. Roswell researchers may disagree about other aspects of the case but all are in agreement (even the Air Force) that there was indeed a debris field where *something* came down on the Foster ranch about 15 miles southeast of Corona, New Mexico. The only argument today centers around *what* was found there; not *who* was there.

Cavitt gave an exclusive and extensive interview to the Air Force's Colonel Richard L. Weaver on May 24, 1994, in preparation for the Air Force's response (*Newsweek* magazine called it a preemptive strike) to the expected General Accounting Office (GAO) report on Roswell commissioned by the late New Mexico congressman Steven Schiff. He described to Weaver what he claimed was the extent of his involvement in those events of early July 1947. Incredibly, this testimony was given to Weaver at the same time that Cavitt was still denying to us personally that he was even at the RAAF at the time. For example, when interviewed again by us one month after Colonel Weaver's interview, Cavitt reverted to his previous story that he was not involved at all. One is compelled to ask if Cavitt's selective memory is affected by who the interviewer is. Did he think that his testimony to Weaver confirming his involvement would be kept secret?

In what amounts to a tacit confession, Cavitt described to Weaver that, yes, he was personally involved in the Roswell events after all, thus officially going on the record admitting that he had been deceiving and misleading Roswell investigators for almost 10 years. Readers can draw their own conclusion from the veracity of Cavitt's declaration to Weaver: "I am telling

the truth, and I have told all of these other people [that is, Roswell investigators] the truth."[5]

Weaver's interview of Cavitt was no doubt intended to be nonconfrontational and conducted to elicit a specific result. Weaver, who was reading from our first book *UFO Crash at Roswell* (New York: Avon, 1991), comes across as an officer very unfamiliar with the concept of asking any follow-up questions when faced with incomplete, inconsistent, or incomprehensible responses. Instead, he afforded the fellow officer the courtesy of one leading question after the next and even resorted to helping Cavitt at times when faced with providing an accurate answer. Nevertheless, Cavitt seemed wary about being questioned again about Roswell.

For her part, Cavitt's wife Mary chimed in whenever she could to support her husband's story that he really didn't know anything, even though she admitted her husband had never discussed with her anything related to his intelligence work. The result was a paradoxical mix of opaque vagueness or a total memory lapse regarding the Roswell Incident ("Its hard to remember July '47; I hadn't been there very long"[6]), contrasted with details when he recalled other non-Roswell-related events of that time period (for example, Cavitt's description of a 1947 B-29 crash that occurred near Roswell was surprisingly lucid and quite articulate).

Whether deliberately or otherwise, Cavitt claimed not to remember much about the Roswell events, except that he told Weaver of finding the immediately recognizable remains of a weather balloon, some aluminum foil, and bamboo sticks on a remote ranch outside of Roswell, all of it quickly gathered up. Unstated and unanswered was the most logical of all logical questions: Why would Cavitt have allowed Colonel Blanchard and Major Marcel to declare to the world that they had found a flying disc, only to be made to look foolish later when it was identified by their commanding general, of all people, as nothing more than a simple weather balloon?

Given the day of the week and his description of the site, it is clear that Cavitt was describing for Weaver his trip to the Foster ranch debris field on Sunday, July 6th: "We went out to this site. There were no...checkpoints or anything like that (going through guards and that sort of garbage)...we went out there and found it."[7] The final impact site was much closer to Roswell, at which the remains of a craft and crew had already been reported and subsequently cordoned off with MPs by the end of the day on Monday, July

7th. Thirty miles to the west, the debris field would not have been secured by the military until early Tuesday morning, July 8th. In any event, Cavitt's memory appeared confused when he tried to remember exactly whom he went with and to precisely which location. He couldn't seem to decide if he had gone out with Marcel or Rickett, his own CIC subordinate, or both.

Contrary to the record previously discussed, Cavitt told Weaver that he was pretty sure that Rickett was with him, but he wasn't sure about Marcel: "...we heard that someone had found some debris out not too far from Roswell and it looked suspicious; it was unidentified. So, I went out and I do not recall whether Marcel went with Rickett and me...I had Rickett with me...I'm not sure it was Marcel, but I know Rickett was [with me]." Then, switching gears and seeming to go the other way, "I do not remember whether Marcel was there or not on the site. He could have been...more and more thinking back on it now he [Marcel] must have been...I must have been with him... Marcel had gotten a Jeep out of the motor pool."[8]

No doubt growing more confused by all of the bobbing and weaving (no pun intended), Weaver on two occasions during the interview tried to suggest that Cavitt might have made more than one trip to the Foster ranch. The suggestion elicited this response from Cavitt: "I went back down there? No, no...I can't recall ever making more than one trip."[9] That would fit nicely with a weather balloon story. Why make another long, hot, dusty trip out into the middle of the desert to see an ordinary weather balloon that had already been gathered up and retrieved?

Adding further confusion to the mix, and perhaps trying to have his account of the events track with that of a routine recovery situation, Cavitt told Weaver twice during the interview that he never met Mack Brazel: "...I never met the rancher, Brazel or Brazzel, whatever his name was."[10] Perhaps trying to cover all of his bases and solve this curious dilemma of who was where, when, and with whom, Cavitt's signed statement of Weaver's report dated May 24, 1994, states the following:

> Shortly after arriving at Roswell, New Mexico, in that time frame [late June or early July, 1947] I had the occasion to accompany one of my subordinates, Master Sergeant Bill Rickett, CIC, and Major Jesse Marcel, Intelligence Officer [of the] 509th Bomb Group, to a ranch land area outside of Roswell to help recover some material. I think that this request may have come directly from Major Marcel. I do not know who may have made the report to him. To the best of my knowledge, the three of us traveled to the aforementioned ranch land area by ourselves (that is, no other person, civilian or military, were with us). I believe we had a military jeep that Marcel checked out to make this trip.

The problem with this statement is evident to anyone who has ever made the trip from Roswell to the former Foster ranch and has tried to locate the 1947 debris field site. Without someone to guide you (if you haven't been to the precise location before), it simply cannot be done. From Roswell, the trip today takes two-and-a-half hours, much of it over gravel roads and across rocky open range land. It would have been even more difficult and more time consuming back in 1947. Even today, it is literally impossible to draw up a map directing someone to the site. Without Brazel to lead them, Marcel, Cavitt, and the claimed Rickett simply could not have found their way on their own. Is Cavitt's memory just faulty or confused by the passage of time?

It should be pointed out that, at the time of Weaver's interview, Marcel and Rickett were both deceased; therefore, follow-up interviews and possible rebuttals to Cavitt's remarks were not possible. However, both Marcel and Rickett have been interviewed extensively throughout the years, and written as well as a taped record (both audio and video) of their testimony has been available to researchers for some time.

In July 1947, Lewis B. Rickett was a plain-clothes master sergeant in the CIC and both he and his boss Sheridan Cavitt were early 1947 graduates of the CIC training school located at camp Holabird in Baltimore, Maryland. Rickett recalled that he had arrived at Roswell in the spring of 1947 some weeks before Cavitt arrived in mid-to-late June to take over the CIC unit there. Rickett was sure that "this deal" (as he sometimes referred to the Roswell Incident) had occurred prior to "the split" (the official separation of the Air Force form the Army into two separate branches in September 1947). Rickett later chose the Air Force where he became a member of the OSI—the Air Force equivalent of the Army CIC. His career included a stint as a section chief at the Pentagon, ultimately reaching the retirement rank of Lt. Colonel.

Rickett recalled that "about this time" he had gone out of town (by deductive reasoning, this was on Monday, July 7th) to conduct a background investigation on someone outside of Roswell and had returned home late that same evening. The next morning, he reported back to the CIC office around 11 a.m. It was then Tuesday, July 8th, and Cavitt wasn't at his desk. Rickett recalled how the CIC secretary explained to him that his boss had left in a big hurry with Major Marcel and "some farmer-looking person...they all got some vehicles and took off" and that he had left instructions that he wanted to meet with Rickett around 1 p.m. that same afternoon. According to the NCO, Cavitt returned around 1:15 and immediately told Rickett to take a drive with

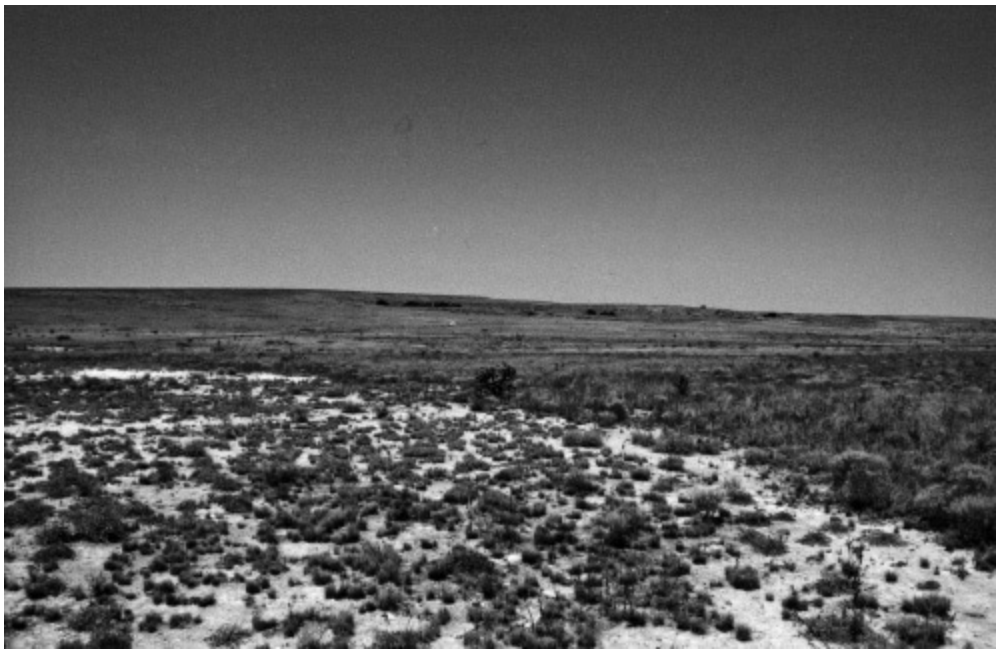
him, stating, “I don’t believe what I’ve [seen]...I want you to go with me somewhere.” Rickett, still in the dark at this point as to what was going on, could only respond, “Where you been? You and Marcel went out of here with some old farmer....” Cavitt, perhaps demonstrating control of the situation to a subordinate, corrected him on this point (“some old rancher—not farmer”). As to where they were going, “...to the boondocks”[11] was all that Cavitt would say.

According to Rickett, he and “Cav” both changed into another pair of shoes that all CIC operatives kept handy for fieldwork, in this case suitable for walking in desert terrain, then drove out to a place that Cavitt wanted to show him. Just the two of them were in the vehicle, an old Plymouth staff car; Cavitt did the driving. Rickett was concerned about getting stuck in the sand, but Cavitt reassured him “...there’s a halfway road out there.”

When they arrived at the site, they saw a number of military vehicles and were met by five or six MPs, at least one of whom Rickett recognized as being form the Provost Marshal’s 1395 unit command at the RAAF. All were armed with drawn .45s and a few were brandishing submachine guns. Even though they were known by the MPs, their identification was still checked. “They weren’t taking any chances,” and they were allowed to pass. They drove another 100 yards up the two-track dirt trail and ran into the Provost Marshal himself, Major Edwin Easley and the balance of his men, 25 to 30 MPs scattered “here and there, on top of these little dunes,” out 300 to 400 yards in a big circle, guarding the perimeter to keep any intruders from wandering into the area.[12]

Rickett described the area as mostly flat, scrub-desert interspersed with rolling knolls or dunes, some as high as 15 feet, which he thought was unusual. To the author, having been to this very location, this description is reminiscent of the final impact site just 35 to 40 miles north of Roswell, where the remains of the craft and crew were recovered. This site is 30 miles east-southeast of the Brazel debris field, which would have required a drive of three to four hours back at that time; Rickett distinctly remembered driving for only about 45 minutes, which is totally consistent with the impact site much closer to Roswell. Rickett also stated that they returned to the office about 5 p.m. If they had originally left the office for the Foster ranch location at 1:30 p.m., as Rickett described, the earliest that they could have returned back to the base would have been 9:30 to 10 p.m. late that evening, assuming that they did not spend any time surveying that location. If they had spent any

time at that spot, they would have faced a treacherous drive in the dark from the desert driving cross-country in a vehicle hardly adept at such an off-road trip. Such an unlikely scenario would have taken an even longer expanse of time and would have been extremely dangerous to begin with. None of this was recounted by Rickett. Clearly, his recollection is accurate; they traveled to a specific site much closer to Roswell than the Foster ranch: the impact site.



The impact site where Cavitt took Rickett to get his reaction. PHOTO CREDIT: TOM CAREY

Could Bill Rickett have been confused or mistaken? Cavitt had recalled to us, as well as to Colonel Weaver, their finding of a balloon-borne radiosonde (radio tracking signal device) out toward Ruidoso, New Mexico, which is due west of Roswell and would have been a two-hour drive each way. Unlike Cavitt, Rickett's testimony was always consistent and very detailed as to where and what. Cavitt's story changed each and every time he was interviewed. It is ironic that when he voiced the new official explanation of the U.S. Air Force, they latched on to him and not Rickett or the hundreds of other witnesses who endorse the recovery of a genuine flying saucer.

While walking the site, Cavitt reiterated his reasoning to Rickett for bringing him there: "I just thought it would be advisable for someone else to see it." Once again demonstrating control and authority over the situation, he told Rickett not to walk anywhere without his permission but at the same

time asked for his opinion as to what he was observing. Rickett's initial perspectives to Cavitt are interesting and reflect a combination of amazement as well as bewilderment: "It's kind of hard to believe. It looks to me like something landed here...but if it landed here, I don't see any tracks...I don't know how anything could have landed and not leave tracks."[12] These remarks alone rule out the Brazel debris field where numerous firsthand witnesses reported seeing a long gouge in the rocky terrain.

Noticing some of the remaining metallic-looking, foil-like wreckage scattered about, Rickett assumed that it was metal. "Is it hot (radioactive)? Can you touch it?" he asked Cavitt, who responded, "Yeah, be my guest, that's what I wanted you to ask me."[13]

Rickett then proceeded to pick up one of the pieces nearest him, which was about 4 inches by 10 inches in size. He described it as being extremely thin, feather-light in weight, and only slightly curved in shape. After a cursory examination, he tried putting it over his knee in an attempt to make it bend. It would not, even in the slightest. "Cav looked over at [Easley] and said 'Smart guy...trying to do what we couldn't.'" Dumbfounded by this turn of events, Rickett exclaimed to Cavitt, "For God's sake! What in the hell is this stuff made of? It can't be plastic...don't feel like plastic...but it just flat feels like metal...I never saw a piece of metal that thin that you couldn't bend." Walking the site with Cavitt and Easley, he encountered more of the foil-like, but super-strong, metallic debris: "...the more I looked at it, I couldn't imagine what it was."[14]

Indicative of the secrecy that surrounded the entire operation was a brief conversation that Rickett had with one of the MPs he recognized who was posted on the perimeter. Out of earshot of the others, he confided to Rickett, "I don't know what we're doing, but I do know this, I never talked to you in my life, not out here." Rickett's reply to this was, "What you see out here, you never saw it." "That's right," responded the MP. This sentiment was reemphasized to Rickett shortly thereafter by Cavitt in the presence of Major Easley in a manner reminiscent of a schoolteacher lecturing a remedial student. "You and I never saw this. You and I have never been out here. We don't see any military people out here. We don't see any vehicles out here." Rickett's reaction to all of this was, "Yeah, that's right. We never left the office...."[15]

Almost 50 years later, Cavitt allowed to Colonel Weaver the possibility

that this conversation might have indeed taken place, but with a different, if convoluted intent. “Now I could have said something facetious like that after we got back to the office, after I was convinced that it was a weather balloon, or some such contraption...I could have said, ‘Rickett, this has been a big boondoggle. I don’t want 700 CIC Headquarters to know we wasted our time on it. Forget we ever did it.’ I mean I could have said it in a facetious way: ‘Let’s make out like it never existed, because we’re wasting our time.’ But I didn’t say it in such a way that it would be so highly classified we won’t have anything to do with it.”[16] Now, if anyone can make out what exactly Cavitt was trying to explain, please contact me. Cavitt, always the intelligence officer, was indeed well trained to spin his way out of any situation. Moreover, fortunately for him, Weaver knew nothing of the truth to refute him. He was assigned to find testimony to build a conventional case against Roswell—not educate himself to the contrary. And Cavitt was the perfect candidate—albeit the only one who fit their agenda.

As an example of Cavitt’s contradictory testimony, consider what took place the very morning after Major Jesse Marcel returned from Fort Worth, Texas, where he had been ordered to pose for pictures with the substituted weather balloon in General Ramey’s office. Marcel immediately confronted Cavitt about what had transpired during his two-day absence. According to Rickett, Marcel asked his boss for a look at his report on the incident. “Cav told him that he [Marcel] wasn’t cleared to see it and couldn’t look at it. Jess got upset at this and reminded Cavitt that he outranked him.” Once again demonstrating control, Cavitt told Marcel, as described by Rickett, “Cav told Marcel that his orders came from Washington and that Jess could take it up with the Pentagon. Marcel, who was a very diplomatic sort, dropped the matter and, as far as I know, never brought it up again.”[17]

In 1982, Cavitt acknowledged to author William Moore that he probably had taken charge of things while Marcel was away in Fort Worth and that if such a report were written, he would have been the one that wrote it. “If there ever was a final report [on this matter], then I suppose I was the one who wrote it.” But by the time Colonel Weaver interviewed him in 1994 that possibility had turned into denial: “I don’t think I even made a report...which I normally would if there was anything at all unusual.”[18]

Later that afternoon, during the time of the actual incident, Cavitt, still in control, told Rickett to accompany him to the flight line to meet a plane that

was arriving from Washington, D.C. “They’re coming in for that box,”[19] was all that Cavitt would say. This was in reference to a box of wreckage, which Marcel had gathered, then taped shut before giving to Cavitt. According to Rickett, “...Cavitt gave him a receipt for it.”[20] Apparently, Cavitt wanted Rickett to witness the transaction. The plane, a four-engine C-54 as identified by Rickett, came in right as scheduled. Upon approaching the landed aircraft, Rickett would recognize the copilot, but for some unstated yet understood reason, neither spoke to the other on this occasion; secrecy was still the modus operandi. Cavitt personally handed over the box to two passengers from the plane that Rickett described as “CIC-types,” signed for it, and boarded with the box. The destination: Andrews Air Field in Washington.

It would be later that year when Rickett was talking on the phone with Joseph T. Wirth of CIC Headquarters in Washington about an unrelated topic when he started to question Wirth about the previous July plane flight (he was the copilot). Before he could utter another syllable, Wirth cut him off. “Now you stop right there. No airplane came in there. Nobody got anything.”[21]

It would take another 15 years before Rickett had another opportunity. During that time he had gone on to serve in the CIA OSS and retired as a lieutenant colonel. At that time, Wirth was a civilian working for the Washington, D.C., Park Police. Still remembering the abrupt last phone conversation back in 1947, the officer confided to Rickett this time, “You almost got me in a little bit of a bind, but I think we covered ourselves.” Rickett agreed, “...somebody could get court-marshaled for a thing like that.”[22] Still wary 15 years after the fact, Wirth suggested that the two of them go out into the parking lot to avoid the chance of being overheard. Though a civilian, Wirth still held a reserve commission.

Continuing the conversation, Wirth told Rickett, “Honest to God, they still haven’t found out yet just what that [foil-like debris] was.”[23] They then discussed the strange properties and possibilities of Monel metal, which is similar in appearance to aluminum but much heavier, and concluded that beyond appearance, there were no other comparisons. Rickett then mentioned to Wirth that he had also run into an old Washington CIC colleague who later, like Cavitt, had transferred to the Air Force OSI. Rickett referred to him as only “Miller” during the interview, but we determined that this was none other than the CIC operative who was responsible for the disbursement of

funds for the recovery operation at the Roswell sites as a result of the crash in 1947. After exchanging pleasantries, mostly about the luck of discovering one another still alive, Claire Miller unexpectedly blurted out to a startled Lewis Rickett, “The answer’s still the same. Don’t ask me!”[24]

CIC officer Joseph Wirth. PHOTO CREDIT: USAF.

Although Rickett told us many times that he was sure that he didn’t know the entire Roswell story, he did know enough firsthand information to conclude: “The Air Force’s explanation that it was a balloon was totally untrue. It was not a balloon. I never did know for sure exactly what its purpose was, but it wasn’t ours.”[25]

Early into our investigation, we had submitted the names and documented serial numbers of high-level military personnel at Roswell in 1947, to both the Department of Defense and the Veteran’s Administration for further confirmation of service. One of the names that could not be documented as serving at Roswell at the time in question was Army intelligence officer Ernest O. Powell. Former CIC/OSI agent Charles R. Shaw served under Major Ernest O. Powell at Selfridge Air Force Radar Station in Mount Clemens, Michigan, in 1950. In two letters written by Shaw to former CIA

employee Karl Pflock he stated:

> "...[Powell] informed me he had been apprised by the G-2 [Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence] Officer or the base provost Marshall to the effect that an official source confirmed the recovery of alien bodies at the said UFO crash site. The most peculiar aspects of his [Powell's] assignment as OSI Detachment Commander at Selfridge AFB was its brevity including myself were puzzled by Powell's swift departure, without even a customary farewell party...[O]ur district [25] Commander, Colonel Raymond S. Rife [deceased]...advised that Powell was involved in a sensitive matter at his previous duty assignment [Roswell?], which necessitated his reassignment out of OSI. I never suspected Powell was previously stationed at Roswell Army Air Field. Therefore, the thought strikes me that his loose talk concerning the Roswell incident might have precipitated his transfer out of OSI."[26]

During his interview with Col. Weaver in 1992, Sheridan Cavitt made much of his claim that no one had ever contacted him or had sworn him to secrecy in any way regarding the events of 1947. Whether his claim is true or not is irrelevant. Historically, it was understood by CIC agents from the beginning of their highly specialized training that the life they would lead would be shrouded in secrecy and undercover work. It was precisely the reason they all dressed in civilian clothes and not in any style of uniform. In addition, although a select few officers at the RAAF knew their respective military ranks, most personnel had no idea. In other words, they lived a life of total secrecy and Cavitt was a master. He had 17 years of high-level intelligence under his belt and knew how to keep secrets with the best of them. The very fact that Base Commander Blanchard originally sent him out with Marcel to accompany Brazel to the debris field is totally indicative of the high level of importance of the crash. He also knew that Cavitt could keep his mouth shut.

Contrary to what he later told Weaver, when he was first interviewed by researcher William Moore in 1982, Cavitt insisted that he was "probably still bound by his security oath, and the matter was probably still classified or at least it certainly was at the time."[27] They did not have to be told not to talk in different situations; it was clearly understood from day one not to talk about sensitive topics—even to wives and families. His late wife Mary, contrary to her own statements to Weaver about ignorance, perhaps summed it up best during an interview with Moore when her husband briefly stepped out of the room. "He won't tell you anything. They've told him not to, and he won't. That's why they chose him for many of the assignments he had...because he doesn't tell anything."[28] It is curious that after our first visit and interview of the Cavitts at their then winter home in Sierra Vista, Arizona, in 1990, Cavitt

walked us out to the car. After an entire afternoon of denial and obfuscation, we were beyond frustrated and could foresee that the elderly former CIC officer would be a tough nut to crack. But what happened next spoke volumes. “Boys,” Cavitt addressed us as we stood by the car, “I just need to know one thing: If you should find anything that threatens national security, you will keep it to yourselves.” At first Kevin Randle and I glanced at one another and then we both responded with “Yes, Colonel. Of course we will, Colonel.” Cavitt seemed pleased as he replied, “Good. I’m happy to hear that.” Moments after we headed out the driveway we again looked at one another and said, “He knows.”

Given Sheridan Cavitt’s lifetime of denial and altering the facts concerning his participation in the Roswell Incident, and given the caliber and volume of credible testimony in direct conflict with his own by former friends and close associates, he must be rejected as a credible witness. This would apply to both sides of the coin including those who still subscribe to the Project Mogul explanation. Sheridan Cavitt is presently the only witness to their folly and he has been summarily disqualified.

Shortly before his death, Lewis Rickett received a phone call from his former boss with whom he had not spoken since 1950. Cavitt announced that he had called to wish him a happy birthday after 40 years. The conversation quickly switched to 1947 and Cavitt cautioned his former subordinate who, by this time, had become a “cooperating witness” for Roswell researchers. “Who have you been talking to?” Rickett answered, “Don Schmitt,” to which Cavitt added, “Oh yes, I know Don. We’ve talked as well. We both know what happened out there.” Rickett’s animated response was, “We sure do! What do you plan to tell them?” Cavitt said, “Well...maybe someday. Goodbye Bill!” Those were the last words Rickett ever heard from the one person who shared so many of the events from 1947 back in Roswell. Cavitt abruptly hung up the phone.[29]

Cavitt’s own former boss, Lt. Colonel Doyle “Dode” Rees, who was stationed at USA/OSI at Kirkland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico, wrote a letter at our request to him around that same time. In it, he remarked, “When you call the press conference to tell the world, let me know, because I want to be there.”[30]

Lt. Colonel Sheridan W. Cavitt died on December 30, 1998, at the age of 79. A good soldier to the end, he took all of the truth with him. There was no

press conference.

Postscript

In February 2011, the author had the good fortune of interviewing Julie Rees, the daughter of the late Colonel Doyle Rees, Cavitt's former boss. Rees refused to tell anyone anything about the '47 incident, including Julie, who was 6 years old at the time of the incident. For many years, to no avail, she tried to get her father to talk about Roswell. Each time he would rebuke her and change the topic. When we first met, her father had just passed away three years earlier in Logan, Utah, on December 29, 2007, at the near-historic age of 99. Rees was a career officer who, after three years in law school, went on to Air Force Investigation School, Air Command and Staff College at the Air University, Nuclear Special Weapons School, and the Air Force Missile School. One of his special assignments during the peak of the Cold War was the construction of an escape and invasion route up the Yukon River in Alaska from the Bering Sea to the Canadian border. Rees was also highly honored and decorated, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the Three-Oak Leaf Cluster. Unknown to his family, he was also involved with the CIC investigation of the Roswell Incident and was also assigned to Wright Patterson AFB on numerous occasions from 1958 through 1961. With national security in his blood, after a lifetime of special and counter intelligence with the Air Force, after his retirement, he went to work for the Central Intelligence Agency. At no time during his career with the U.S. government did he ever endorse the weather balloon explanation to his family or anyone else that we are aware of. Just before he died Julie was spending some time with him at his home in Utah. One day she found him sitting in a chair at the window just "staring out at the sky." Curious, she asked him, "What are you looking for, Daddy?" His answer was simple: "I'm looking for UFOs. They're real, you know." Julie, taken aback by this spontaneous revelation, wasn't prepared for his next remark: "I saw the bodies." With that, he rose up from the chair and left the room, never to reveal another detail.[31]

7
SEARCHING FOR THE HOLY GRAIL

"There is so much nuts-and-bolts evidence. How do you explain things [UFOs] you can see on radar? How do you explain imprints on the ground? How do you explain something that comes along and tears off the tops of trees? How do you explain bullets ricocheting off whatever was in the sky?"

—Dr. J. Allen Hynek, professor emeritus, astronomy department at Northwestern University, former scientific consultant to the U.S. AF Project Blue Book. *People* magazine, August 16, 1976

"They knew they had something new in their hands. The metal and material was unknown to anyone I talked to. A couple of guys thought it might be Russian, but the overall consensus was that the pieces were from space."

—Brig. General Arthur E. Exon, USAF, former base commander Wright Patterson AFB

When Tech Sergeant Steven Akins was instructed to drive two officers who had just arrived from Washington, he never imagined the trip would take him back in time. After departing Cannon Air Force Base, located in Clovis, New Mexico, Akins and the two unknown men headed south—to Roswell. It was April of 1986. From Roswell they would head to the west, then north until they reached Corona, all of which still made little sense to Akins, who was familiar with the state and realized that they were driving in a large circle. The officer in the back seat kept referring to maps while his partner, a Lt. Colonel, kept staring ahead not uttering a word. Neither passenger told him where he was to take them. It was just a spontaneous command, and sometimes too late, as they needed to retrace their route at times. Finally, after some miles over treacherous dirt roads, the officer in back said, "Stop here, and please stay in the car." They remained together as they paced the open desert arroyo occasionally stooping down to examine something on the ground. After some time, they returned to the waiting car and instructed Akins to transport them back the Cannon. Heading out, not a word was spoken by any of the men, until Akins finally blurted out, "What's this all about?" For the first time the ranking officer spoke. "Part of a UFO supposedly crashed at that location." That was all they would say until they arrived back at the base where the same officer took Akins aside and firmly told him that the drive and his comment were "guarded information."[1]

Since the very conception of our Roswell work, we have long been aware of the government's ongoing interest and concern over the debris field site—especially since we have started our own search there beginning in September of 1989. Relying on modern technology including subterranean radar, we have, to date, conducted five archaeological digs with the hope that as meticulous at the military has been, something is still buried out there, just beyond our reach. And as we will demonstrate, the powers-that-be remain just as concerned. The race continues....

In October 1987, just a year and a half after the Akins visit, hired hand James Parker chased down a trespassing vehicle that made every effort to elude his pickup truck. After the two men in the open jeep pulled over, he noticed the writing on the sides of the drab-green jeep: "U.S. Air Force." No matter to Parker. They were still trespassing and he made no doubt about who was going to win an argument as he pointed a loaded Winchester in their direction. At the time it meant little to the ranch hand that both men were middle-aged, but a when one is a mere corporal and the other a buck private, someone's trying to fool someone. Their very lame explanation was that they were there to check out the final location for a "low-altitude radar facility" to track drug smugglers coming in from Mexico—which turned out to be a total fabrication. Before they left the ranch, the driver coyly asked, "...you saw where we were originally coming from. Is that where that 'flying saucer' crashed back in 1947?"[2]

The paradox in all this is that the actual debris site remains the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. Legally, should anyone ever discover any artifact in this open pasture, the federal government could claim ownership. This predicament is one we can only dream of facing, but maybe someday. For the same reason, government officials have behaved as though they do indeed have possession of the property and can go there whenever they desire—but for what purpose? What are they still hunting for? What are we still hunting for? Certainly not pieces of any type of weather balloon. Unauthorized curiosity? Hardly a tourist destination spot, for the same longstanding concern, detailed maps are typically needed for those seeking to explore the historic site. Why are there maps and preserved documents for a vacant, open-range pasture that has no other significance than those witnesses who claim that wreckage from a crashed flying saucer was deposited there in 1947? There is absolutely nothing else of notoriety that has ever occurred at this site—except for cattle

and sheep grazing on the short buffalo grass that covers the area. In 1989, we interviewed former United Press International stringer Jay West, who recounted an incident that transpired while he was assigned to Alamogordo, New Mexico. He would become friends with the public relations officer at White Sands during that time and was surprised to be taken into his confidence one day in 1961. He confessed to West that he had discovered a report that mentioned the Roswell crash of 1947 and that it included a map, which charted two specific locations separated by just a couple of miles. Comparing the map with a topographical map of the general vicinity, West and the PIO attempted to make numerous trips in an attempt to locate either site. The reporter had to admit they came up short but, nonetheless, the greater question remains: Why are there maps preserved for a site at which the Air Force claims nothing of importance happened? Unless....

We had just completed our very first expedition to the Roswell debris field in September, 1989. Sponsored by the Center for UFO Studies (CUFO) of Chicago, we surveyed, "mapped," and laid out a systematic grid for future reference. We intended to return as often as necessary. As we left the ranch and finally arrived on a paved road, we were greeted by a "drab-green" jeep with a man standing alongside it. Dressed in fatigues, he was talking into a two-way radio, possibly to another man in fatigues standing next to another jeep a few miles down the road. Most likely both of them were speaking to another identical man on the side of the road a few more miles from the previous ones. Thankfully, the ranch supervisor Jeff Wells had seen us off that day and could testify that we had left the BLM site perfectly pristine—not so much as a tire track. But that was about to change quickly. The next week Wells called me at home to describe how field agents from the BLM had just left after inspecting the debris field site. At first they were quite upset and had made up their minds that we would never be permitted to work the site ever again. But Wells cleared up that matter in short order. To this day the question still remains: Who drove the multiple vehicles that tore up that very spot after we finished our project? Somebody with maps again, I'm sure.

Throughout the next 10 years we continued to verify the exact location of the debris field with additional independent witnesses, both civilian and military. And under special circumstances we would even permit a production crew filming a news report or documentary to accompany us to the site, all with a strictly enforced proviso: They were not to film any landmarks and they were not to divulge the location of the site. We still had

one main objective for the debris field: to return with a full-scale archaeological project.

Ten years after we had first mapped out the place where we believed something truly extraordinary took place, we met with Office of Contract Archaeology (OCA) Director Richard Chapman at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. With an initial agreement, it wasn't until May of 2002 that we were approached by Larry Landsman, a creative executive at the Syfy Channel in New York. After we had a commitment for funding, we set about the process of securing the required permits—again with a mutual agreement to keep the project as secret as possible. It is standard BLM procedure to withhold the exact location of such projects in order to protect them from outside trespassers. Site location disclosure is also exempt from Freedom of Information Act requests, so we were confident that we could trust the government to help us keep the project under the radar—or so we thought. Typically, OCA contracts involve fieldwork on private land. In this case, federal law requires that we comply with regulations pertaining to the treatment of cultural resources that may be affected by ground-disturbing activities. The final permits had to be approved in Washington and OCA provided all of the necessary data, which did not include any mention of the 1947 incident. With nothing more than the coordinates provided, it appeared that the "cat was out of the bag." The immediate reply from Washington was, "Is that where a UFO was supposed to have crashed back in the '40s?"

By far the greatest accomplishment during the 2002 project was the confirmation of the gouge in the general area in which witnesses including Bill Brazel verified its location. With the permission of BLM officials, backhoe trenching was conducted at the site, crosscutting, perpendicular to the specific course trajectory flagged as the 1947 gouge. With no evidence or sign of such a surface defect present at that time, seven backhoe trenches were excavated across the alignment of the gouge as reported to us by numerous witnesses. And there it was: just below the surface a symmetrical "V-shaped" stratigraphic anomaly, exactly as the witnesses recalled after the military had completed their clean-up. We were elated—something had "impacted" with the ground at some time in the past—something a balloon cannot do.

Mind you, the debris field is hardly located in one's backyard. As stated previously, it is 10 miles from the ranch house and days can pass between visits by any of the ranch employees. One can only imagine how many visits

by outside intruders have gone completely undetected. All we know for a fact is that ever since we have actively pursued physical evidence from this potential treasure site, so have the efforts to disqualify us and, secondly, the blatant attempts to contaminate this historic location. This action alone is a federal offense. It would appear such purposeful attempts to sabotage our future exploration of the debris field are worth the risk.

Cattle and sheep are notoriously like goats in that they devour everything in their path. For that very reason, any responsible rancher maintains and keeps the grazing land as pristine as humanly possible. So, when the western ridge near the gouge region of the debris field was “sprayed” with nails, which covered an area of about 100 square feet, this was hardly an accident. Someone trespassed on the property and then, at risk to hundreds of livestock, sought to contaminate this crucial location. We often use sophisticated metal detectors in addition to geophysical prospection methods and technology, which were originally developed for detecting the subsurface presence of geophysical phenomenon at the site. One can just imagine someone gleefully racing away from this site laughing at all the false readings that would soon occur. I can confidently declare that as of this writing, we have cleared away just about every last piece of “planted “metal, though it has taken us about two years.

The author (R) with archaeologists Richard Hill (L) and Pat Flanary at the impact site, 40 miles north of Roswell. PHOTO CREDIT: TOM CAREY.

Since May 2010, geologist Frank Kimbler has been our resident scientist in Roswell to continue the hunt during the periods between the full-scale dig projects. Assistant professor of Earth Science at New Mexico Military Institute, Kimbler has worked as a professional geologist for the past 30 years and at the high school and college level for the past 15 years. He has also worked as an oceanographer for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Aerial photographs can provide a high degree of information not apparent from the ground. Kimbler has spent years studying not only photographs made by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service) from November 19th, 1946, but also February 3rd and 4th, 1954. Unfortunately, there were no aerial pictures taken between these years. Still, for all intents and purposes, we do have before and after shots of the debris field.

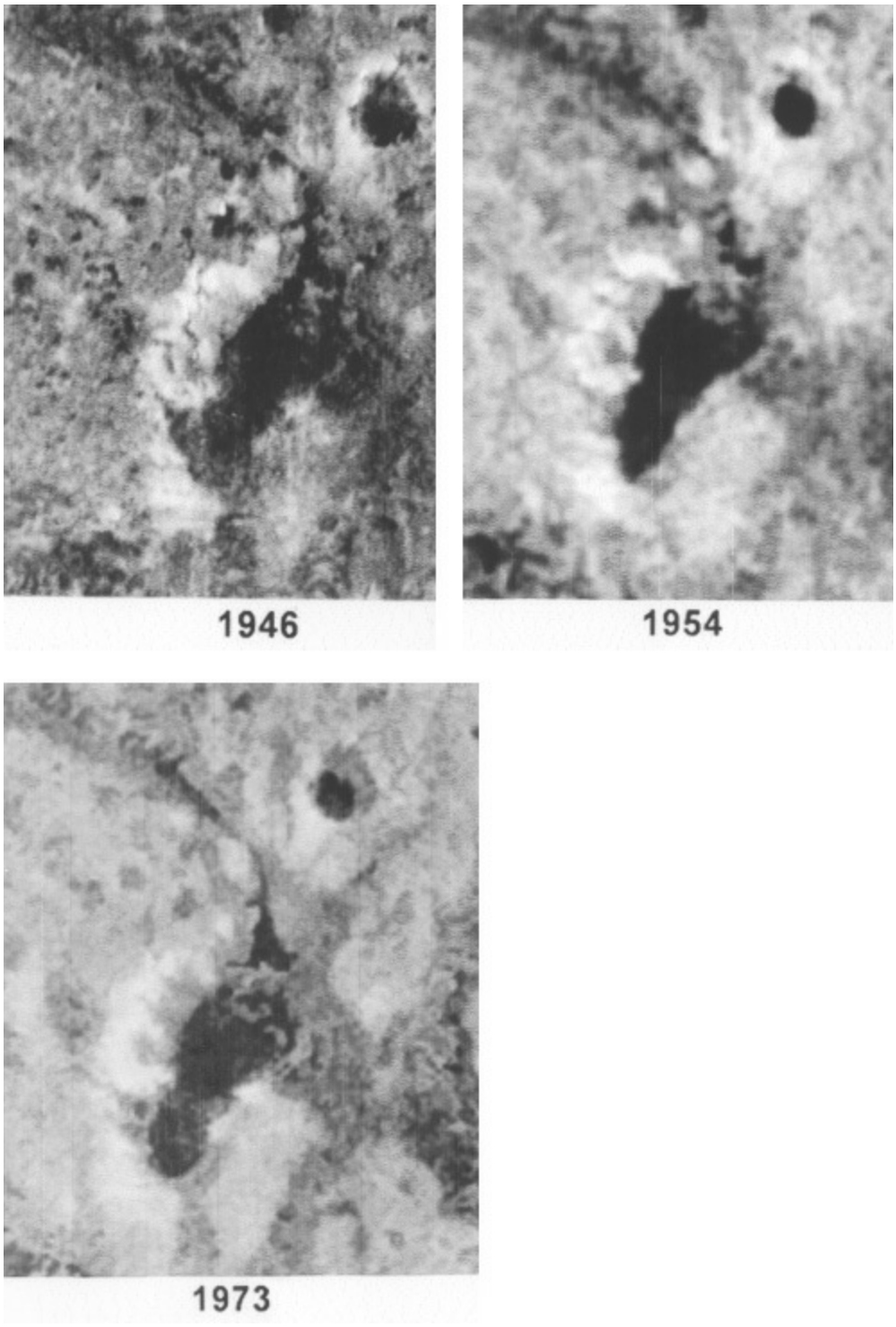
Originally Earth Resources Technology Satellite, Landsat is the oldest source of satellite imagery of continental earth surfaces in the visible, near-infrared, shortwave, and thermal wave length. In our case, what is especially intriguing is enhancing the infrared over the debris field to highlight areas where the ground was disturbed. At our encouragement, we asked the University of New Mexico to test the soil of the debris field against a control of the surrounding area. The potassium level was lower at the debris field. It was suggested that the military, after the recovery operation, may have done something to “decontaminate” the site. The one cheap agent that they might have used for such an effort could have been household bleach. According to the Brazel family, the cattle wouldn’t graze at the pasture for five years after the incident. Even when they would haul bags of cow feed into the middle of the area they were still unwilling to even walk through it. The Landsat image of the debris field clearly shows a burn (disturbed area) at that precise location.

What Kimbler also studies is whether any of the linear features that might represent a once-visible furrow were present in 1954, but not in 1946. He has also determined, along with the consultation of other geologists, anomalies in the 1956 photographs that demonstrate major alteration of the landscape, specifically along the southern ridge, which appears to have been leveled over to some degree by heavy equipment. A sinkhole to the north also appears to have enlarged and is much deeper in comparison to the 1946 shots. All of these elements need to be studied at a much greater level of

enhancement and determination as to what is natural and what is artificial.

In the field, Kimbler relies on high-resolution metal detection scanning of the debris field proper. The objective is to locate any buried or obscured metallic material that might represent remains of the “metallic-like” debris reported in 1947. Almost all metallic elements are at least moderately conductive; that is, metal detection should find it.

And to our delight, Professor Kimbler has discovered a number of items that continue to point in the direction of a crash of something extraordinary. For example, he has located three aluminum buttons that resemble those of military fatigues from the late ’40s to the early ’50s. If this is correct, according to those who support the Mogul balloon explanation, Mack Brazel had already gathered it all and stored it on his porch until Marcel and Cavitt retrieved it. This should be the end of the military recovery operation at the Foster ranch. On the other hand, I hardly believe that any military enlisted men were herding sheep on that pasture at any time since 1947.



Aerial photographs demonstrating geological changes, which suggest artificial manipulation of the debris field site after 1946. PHOTO CREDIT IUFOMRC.

The most curious piece was discovered by Kimbler around the same time as the buttons, but at the opposite side of the field. The fragment appeared to

resemble what witnesses have described to us and I was soon thereafter shown the piece. The late Julie Shuster who, at that time, was the director of the International UFO Museum and Research Center (IUFOMRC) at Roswell, and I decided to fund this artifact testing, so Kimbler quickly contacted the metallurgy department at the Institute of Mining and Technology at Socorro, New Mexico. They refused to test the metal fragment, suspecting it was from—you guessed it—Roswell, where government-imposed discrimination continues. Considering the risk that an artifact may prove to be something less than conventional, why take the chance when there is so much government funding and special science grants at stake? Finally, the geologist was able to have the first isotope work done at Evans Analytical Group (EAG) in San Antonio, Texas. Now, certain concentrations of elements on Earth are unique to Earth. For example, we know the isotopic ratios for the alloy magnesium. And it will have the same isotopic reading for everything on Earth with magnesium. If it is not from Earth, it will have a different ratio of elements. Meteorites from outer space have different ratios. So did the fragment from the debris field. The tests at EAG indicated a potential for the sample to be "non-earth," but due to their given error factor and resolution precision, we could not be assured that the results were 100 percent accurate. So when the opportunity arose to conduct another independent test, Kimbler took a chance.

We have always exercised proper security and chain of custody protocols to ensure the integrity of the scientific data. Even though Kimbler maintained that position, the offer came with one condition: the artifact had to be at the lab by the next morning; the opportunity was too good to miss. When Dr. Lynda Williams, research professor in the Department of Earth and Space Exploration at Arizona State University accepted the challenge, her facility was exactly what was needed to improve on and potentially validate the EAG test. She is also the manager of the Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry Lab; their instruments are able to detect microscopic dust particles from a meteorite. No doubt they could provide the highest resolution needed to determine the magnesium isotope ratios and whether the sample piece was prosaic or, as EAG suggested, "non-earth." Kimbler reluctantly decided to break the chain of custody.

Late afternoon that same day, the scientist anxiously placed the fragment in a jeweler's plastic, hinged box. He would tuck it into the slatted foam lining of the case. Next, he wrapped the box with tape and then inserted it

into a plastic bag. The next step was to place it into a manila envelope, and lastly, into a triple-padded FedEx overnight delivery box to arrive at the lab by 10 a.m. the next morning. The University would pay for the shipping on their end.

"Did you put the artifact in the box?!" the frantic caller asked Kimbler the next morning. "It's not here!"[3] proclaimed Dr. Williams when she called Kimbler. According to the geologist, she was in a total panic and repeated over and over that she did not tamper with the package. As Dr. Williams attempted to recreate the arrival of the parcel, she described that it had been in a mailroom for about an hour. She had personally placed it on the table in the lab, but when she opened the box, everything was intact, just as Kimbler had assembled the package, except the artifact was nowhere to be found. Still upset, Kimbler once again assured her that his wife had witnessed the packing of the piece of metal. Although he realized he had taken a major risk in shipping it, which permitted it to leave his sight, Kimbler felt the benefits would outweigh the gamble. He should have realized that the deck was stacked.

Consider who would have taken such a measure to ensure that the artifact was not tested. Consider who would have authorized the theft of said artifact and under what concern. Mind you, there is technology that enables individuals to remove the contents of a package without detection—still a professional no less. FedEx employees work under their own set of standards and are not known to utilize techniques out of a James Bond movie. Could it have been someone in the mailroom? Why should they care? They would not have the means. Now, we could have pointed an accusatory finger at Dr. Williams; she did put on a very convincing act. And she was the one who set up the test requirements to begin with. All national and state colleges are government contracted and therein lies the concern we have always had with such laboratories: The government legally owns the debris. Thus, they control all the labs we could enlist to validate anything we find. When possible, we have tried going outside the United States to have a new specimen tested with less chance of Big Brother interference.

In March of 2014, Professor Kimbler and I were contacted by Company X in Canada to participate (and me to consult) in a documentary for the Smithsonian Cable Channel. We both saw it as another opportunity to do some additional searching at the Foster ranch and have the funding for the tests of any new find. When we were offered the chance to have an earlier

recovered metal fragment from the debris field analyzed outside the United States, we reluctantly agreed, especially after what had happened at Arizona State. We had assurances from two of the producers and a good friend and colleague that the chain of custody would not be broken. It was called the "Toronto Sample" and would be featured in the final cable documentary, *UFO—Declassified.* The Canadian version would present the Roswell Incident in a fairly neutral manner, whereas the American treatment was quite hostile—it diluted the case down to a non-event. What was especially disheartening about both productions was that they totally played down the test results on the sample we provided. The one crucial piece of information that was not even mentioned was that the isotope test provided an element even we didn't expect. Element 42 on the periodic table, molybdenum (Mo), is often combined with steel as a hardening alloy. It has the sixth-highest flash point of any known element and forms super-strong stable carbide in steel and other alloys—but not aluminum. There are no listed successful combinations of aluminum and molybdenum. And according to Kimbler, "There is no such thing as an aluminum, molybdenum, silicon, magnesium alloy! It does not exist!"[4] And the test results established that our piece consisted of 3 percent molybdenum. Kimbler added, "If there is Mo, then we have a truly exotic alloy that should not exist, at least not on Earth, at this time. This is historically significant."[5] We were optimistic for this breakthrough. We were not surprised that officials at the Smithsonian nixed such a revelation. But what transpired next is part of classic UFO lore. There needed to be another test for duplication of results as soon as we could re-acquire this potentially significant piece of physical evidence. But when we contacted Timothy Bissell, the director of research at Company X in Canada, the response he received from the lab was "The actual sample that was used in the Trent (lab technician) analysis was destroyed. In order for the test to be done, the sample had to be completely disintegrated in acid and then measured on a molecular level."[6] "What about the other piece we had provided," we frantically asked. "We have no idea what became of it. Somebody took it,"[7] was the answer we begrudgingly had to accept. Company X is no longer in business and we make plans to conduct another dig. Crash experts continue to assure us that there is no such thing as a perfect recovery operation. That would explain why the arbiters of the cover-up still watch and listen—in many ways we "plug the leaks" they've missed.

“Typically, after heavy rains up in the Lincoln County region, that’s when they’d make their move.”[8] Major Charles A. McGee described how he would occasionally be assigned sentry duty at the west gate of the RAAF back in 1947. There was only a dirt road that enabled them to slip past the residents in town. This clandestine exercise went on until the end of 1949 with one sole objective: to secretly go up to the debris field and continue searching for pieces of remaining debris from the crash. Seventy years later the search continues as the level of importance has not abated. And the arms of those guarding the truth extend well beyond the Foster ranch.

8
“IT WAS THE BIGGEST LIE I EVER HAD TO TELL”

“Although the Air Force will deny it, they are still investigating UFOs. This is being done through two projects. The UFOs are no figment of the imagination.”

—Lt. Colonel Lou Corbin, Army Intelligence

“The existence of these machines is evident and I have accepted them absolutely.”

—Air Chief Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Dowding

Since the very conception of the Roswell investigation, a tremendous wealth of circumstantial evidence has been painstakingly amassed. We have often stated that we could take our case for what we have become convinced happened outside of Roswell, New Mexico, into any court of law in the United States and win hands down. Accused criminals have been sentenced to capital punishment with far less eyewitness testimony. Hundreds of testimonies to something extraordinary crashing outside of Roswell in 1947 have demonstrated reasonable doubt as to any conventional explanation. But as the late astrophysicist Carl Sagan would often lecture, “Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.”[1] Accepted. Proof that planet Earth is being visited by intelligence beyond our “third rock from the sun” would certainly go down as one of the greatest discoveries of the millennium. At the very least, it would appear that it could go down as one of the greatest cover-ups in the history of human-kind. But Roswell still stands as that shining star of physical hard evidence.

Unfortunately, as most UFO reports go, even of the 5 percent that remain unexplained by conventional means, no physical proof is ever secured. Roswell still provides every element necessary to finally provide that “extraordinary” evidence. Since 1947, witnesses have confided to us the descriptions of what took place during that fateful time. Alas, the most crucial element that has been lacking is the physical proof—the smoking gun or, as we chose to call it, our “Holy Grail,” which would remove all doubt. To date, we have conducted five archaeological digs at the debris field searching for

that proverbial needle in a haystack. Reasonably speaking, in the military's frantic effort to retrieve every last piece of physical evidence from that location, human nature not being absolute, a neglected sliver has to still be buried out there, yet to be discovered. Surely, this would explain why military search teams still trekked out into the desert canvassing the area for years after the incident; the most recent that we are aware of happened in 1988. This was no better demonstrated then when Mack Brazel's son, Bill, had remnants confiscated by military officials two years after the event. We have lost count of all of the false alarms we have responded to in regards to those who made claims of possessing a piece of UFO evidence. No one walks away more disappointed than we do. Still, the hunt continues and something may possibly turn up some place where we least suspect, such as an old, vintage photograph taken at the very time of the most famous UFO in history.

The higher-ups in Washington, D.C., played a high-stakes game on Monday, July 7th, 1947. Could they get the press to look the other way and accept an alternative explanation? Would the civilian witnesses cooperate and stand aside as the government took charge? And more importantly, would the public continue to place their trust in official explanations no matter how inconsistent they were with facts presented by the witnesses?

After the famous "capture of the flying saucer" press release went out the very next day, phase two immediately went into play. Next, all attention was diverted away from the RAAF, the city itself, and the outlying area, and shifted over to Carlswell Air Field in Fort Worth, Texas. The press conference of the century was about to take place in the office of General Roger Ramey, one of the very arbiters of the cover-up. The script was in place, and the actors were set to take the stage and open the doors for the media to take the bait. The cover-up was about to go into full force—and on display.

J. Bond Johnson, a seasoned reporter for the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, was the man sent out to the air base to get the story that was captivating the world at that time. According to Johnson, "The AP [Associated Press] picked up what that they were flying it [the disc] down there. They've got a flying saucer and they're bringing it up from Roswell."[2]

Johnson drove out to the base and was surprised when the guard at the front gate had a pass ready for him. He was then directed to Ramey's office where there was a pile of wreckage scattered on the floor. The reporter described it as flimsy—aluminum foil, balsa wood, and some rubber material

that had been burned and that was “stinking up the place.”[3] Johnson commented that he was surprised that Ramey allowed such trash in his office.

Ramey and the newsman personally spoke for about 15 to 20 minutes and then Johnson was permitted to take four photographs of the wreckage of the so-called “flying saucer.” It was during Johnson’s conversation with Ramey that the base Public Information Officer (PIO) Major Charles A. Cashun took two shots of Major Marcel, who had just arrived with some of the real material. (As an aside, upon returning the next afternoon on an unscheduled flight originally from Roswell, he would vociferously complain that Ramey took him to a map room and, when they returned to the officer’s room, the pieces of the wreckage that he had personally brought back from the debris field had been substituted with the remnants of a weather balloon and radar reflector kite.) Ramey had ordered Marcel to depart his office, not giving Johnson or any other reporter an opportunity to speak with the lone individual named in the press release from Roswell. Johnson, using his own camera, a Speed Graphic, single lens with Ansco film, then proceeded to take two pictures of the wreckage with Ramey and his Chief of Staff, Colonel Thomas J. DuBose, and two of just the general. It was quite obvious from the moment that Johnson, the only reporter allowed into the room, arrived, that the material was nothing special or unusual in any way. Even DuBose, a retired Brigadier General would confess in 1990, “It was a hoax—the balloon part of it. We were the ones who switched the real material for the balloon. We needed to get the press off of Ramey’s back.”[4] Even with that admission no one in General Ramey’s office at the time suspected that what was on the floor would not produce the true answer. Instead, it was a folded piece of paper the officer was innocently holding in his hand while Johnson clicked one of the snapshots.

The Roswell flying saucer story was about to die, but aside from the countless witnesses who have gone on the record as to the true nature of the story, modern science has uncovered a potential “smoking gun.” It is a form of physical evidence that no one in Ramey’s office could have imagined or anticipated—especially after the real evidence had been scurried away. All concerned thought that they had pulled off the slight-of-hand of the decade and they were confident they got away with it. Johnson was permitted to take back the first six pictures from Ramey’s office to the newspaper for processing, producing 5×4-inch negatives. Late that night, he wrote his story for the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, reporting that all the excitement was for

nothing; it was all for a weather balloon. His photographs, plus the two from Ramey, were sent out over the wire. Most news outlets singled out the Marcel pictures, as he was the original advocate of the story. The phone stopped ringing and the press lost all interest overnight. The truth would lie dormant for the next 30 years.

Three long decades after Jesse Marcel suffered the national embarrassment of being ordered by General Ramey to pose with the phony wreckage, he realized that the promises that the truth would come out within a few years were slowly withering on the vine. The anguish became physical as well when the retired Lt. Colonel was diagnosed with terminal emphysema. Beginning in 1978 a failing Jesse Marcel went public to set the record straight. A few years after that DuBose would sign a sworn affidavit that the balloon press conference was a cover-up. Years prior to that, Ramey admitted to numerous officers that the real wreckage was “out of this world.” Such were their final confessions on the Roswell Incident—unfortunately none of them provided us with any physical proof. Ah. But one did, unintentionally, I’m sure, provide us with photographic documentation that would posthumously become substantiation and vindication for the fall-guy, Marcel. Another irony is that the officer who ordered him to assume that role may have also proven him correct.

So what else in the James Johnson photographs could prove that what indeed happened was extraordinary? What could demonstrate that it was not any type of weather balloon? Enter the now-famous teletype memo that General Roger Ramey held in his hand in the staged press conference on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 8th, 1947.

As Johnson positioned each subject around the balloon debris, no one would have foreseen that 50 years later, modern-day computers with image-enhancing software would allow us to go back in time and place the text on a single piece of paper into a chapter in history. A major breakthrough in the Roswell investigation was about to be unraveled.

Ramey (L) holding the memo that has become the subject of tremendous controversy in recent years. PHOTO CREDIT: IUFOMRC.

It was February 1989 when we first learned of James B. Johnson while attempting to track down the original photographs taken in Roger Ramey's office 42 years prior. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that the original newspaper for which Johnson worked had turned its photo files over to the Special Collections Division of the University of Texas at Arlington Library, and that the original six negatives taken by Johnson still existed. Little did we realize at the time that one photo in particular would potentially provide us with substantiation of much of what would become the Roswell Incident. We immediately requested photo copies of each available negative from Dr. Gerald D. Saxon, associate director for Special Collections.

Originally, there was some confusion as to who took which of the seven known photographs from the Ramey press conference. Five of the seven photographs had been preserved and four of them were shot and later developed by Johnson the evening of Tuesday, July 8th, 1947. There was a single picture of Ramey, which we have found in numerous newspapers, but it appears that this shot was not saved. There also remained an additional photograph that was not part of the collection taken after Johnson had

departed the general's office. This was a photo of Irving Newton, a warrant officer at Fort Worth, posing with the same balloon wreckage. This shot was most likely taken by the base's Public Information Officer, Major Charles A. Cashon. The last information we acquired on this picture was from ABC in New York with no additional documentation as to whether it still existed. Once the five prints arrived we immediately had them enlarged by professional photographer Jack Rodden of Roswell.

It would not be for another year (we focused on tracking down witnesses after the enlargements were put on display at the newly founded International UFO Museum and Research Center at Roswell) that we noticed something that was overlooked since 1947—specifically in the one shot of Ramey and DuBose kneeling down behind the substituted balloon material. The text on the piece of paper that the general was holding...was almost legible!

Our curiosity grew as we originally believed that the message was a copy of the press release describing the weather balloon. At the time this was growing more important to us because a small number of pro-Roswell investigators were making the ridiculous claim that the crumbled and torn remains of the weather balloon in the Ramey photographs were, in reality, the genuine pieces of the flying saucer. If we could read the "press release" in Ramey's hand, it would put an end to such nonsense. We made arrangements to have the image computer-enhanced by NASA consultant and technical engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Dr. Richard Haines. This was five years prior to the advent of photo interpretation software, but we were the first ones to make the effort and we were only hoping for a cursory interpretation. We felt it certainly was worth a try. Some weeks would pass but, much to our disappointment, Haines was only able to pull out a few distinct letters. However, one word did partially jump out and that was the word "BALLOON." For us, it was no leap of faith to conclude that what Ramey was holding was the press release for the alternative explanation of the weather balloon. At that time it seemed like the most rational conclusion.

Throughout the next 10 years, as specific computer programs were designed, such as Microsoft Photo Editor, PhotoFinish, MGI PhotoSuite, and Adobe PhotoShop, cryptanalysts have been getting closer to finally deciphering this potential breakthrough in the Roswell investigation. These experts have been able to process the image into different formats employed in such fields as electron microscopy for image enhancement. They are able to manipulate the contrast and brightness as well as utilize special effects

including “spherizing” that can partly unfold the paper in Ramey’s hand. Overall, the main objective has been to maximize clarity and detail, enabling the computer to allow us to read the visible verbiage on this innocuous piece of paper, which has been overlooked for more than 40 years. And what these opticmatricians describe may truly be the Roswell “smoking gun” we have been hunting for. Indeed, what General Ramey is holding may be the essence of the entire Roswell story. With today’s technology, that single piece of paper tells a much different story than what the world was told that day in Ramey’s office.

Numerous teams of researchers have worked from different high-resolution scans of the original negative, most notably Dr. David Rudiak and Dr. Donald Burleson. Both are highly qualified scientists and specialize in computer image enhancement. They may differ on specific words, but their overall interpretation retains the same theme throughout.

Initially, it was maintained that each researcher should enhance the scans in an attempt to make them legible utilizing unique techniques. This turned out to be the best method as it provided for an entire battery of sophisticated tests. Grain patterns were checked for uniformity to ensure that any process of scaling, lighting, or sharpening the images would remain constant. Color channels were also created, which allowed for the use of PhotoShop. Any letters found from print rather than the negative were considered suspect and the negative served as final conformation within the original scale structure. The most recent scans from the original negatives were sponsored by the Roswell Museum and done in July 2000 and September 2002. The latest version is so fine that they show no pixilation, and as far as grain structure is concerned, the scan is so tight that for all intents and purposes we are essentially working with the actual negatives.

Numerous blind studies have been conducted attempting to “read” the memo, but none with the required optical photography experience. Specialists who have a thorough knowledge of military terminology and type and font styles circa 1947 have also been consulted. It would seem the controversy still resounds between those who dismiss the Roswell Incident no matter what the proof, and those who are willing to objectively examine each opportunity, no matter how slight the possible return. Clearly, the startling ramifications of the Ramey Memo are too enormous to cast a blind eye to. One skeptic went so far as to suggest that such research was a complete waste of time and that it was like chasing “faces in the clouds.”[5] This is a rather

myopic approach to something so potentially significant. Clouds, like snowflakes, have unlimited shapes and configurations. Within the English language there are only 26 possible letters of the alphabet. And the manner by which those letters are configured to form essential words, which then have to make up complete and comprehensive sentences, reduces the possibilities even further. Mathematically, the scale tightens further with the elimination of word fragments and ellipsis. Hardly faces in the limitless clouds. More accurately, this piece of paper represents something that is right on the cusp of decipherability and postulates the realistic possibility that the Roswell advocates are indeed correct. And what the Ramey Memo may say is quite different than the weather balloon story the U.S. Government was trying to sell at that time. It could prove, beyond a shadow of a doubt, the cover-up of one of the biggest stories of all time.

A curious matter that also needs to be pointed out is the sequence of pictures taken and the apparent haste by which things took place. One will note that, first of all, Gen. Ramey appears to have quickly entered his own office before any of the photos were shot. Not only has he not had time to even remove his hat, but when one examines the very same photo of the officer clasping the single sheet of paper, he has a nasty tear of his left thumbnail. This also would suggest the speed by which this photo session came together.

Secondly, there are four specific pictures that were taken of Ramey holding the memo. In three of the shots, the paper is folded the opposite way with the blank, backside of the paper facing the camera. In only one of the poses is the paper folded the opposite way with the front of the paper, the text side, toward the camera shutter. Did the general catch himself after one picture was snapped and quickly fold the paper away from the cameraman? I mention this because a number of skeptics have suggested that Ramey would never have allowed himself to be within camera range with such a sensitive document in hand. Point being that the U.S. military's attempt to out-maneuver the press with this one opportunity was on such a fast pace that Ramey tore his thumbnail, he didn't have a chance to remove his cap in his own office, and for a single staged camera shot, neglected to put aside a very sensitive teletype held in his hand. It remains ridiculous to surmise that he would have had any anticipation of future technology zooming in to spy on the exact verbiage on a piece of paper, which ironically described events they were in the very act of covering up. This might also explain why Johnson was

the only reporter allowed into the general's office. They only needed to pull the wool over one messenger's eyes and, for whatever reason, they felt they could trust this lone reporter to get their account correct. Fortunately for them the memo wouldn't even become an issue until 43 years later. No doubt, the entire press conference in 1947 was a resounding success.

It is also amusing to note that when the U.S. Air Force was asked by the late Congressman Steven Schiff to look into the Roswell affair, the memo issue came up, partly due to our efforts just three years prior in 1990. We were the first ones to question the legibility of the document. Whether in an attempt to stonewall the entire issue or not, with the most sophisticated photo interpretation equipment available, they publicly stated that a government photo-analysis lab was not able to "visualize" any "details" even after "digitizing" first-generation prints from the actual negatives. Mind you, the Pentagon would have had access to the very same technology NASA has applied to photo interpretation of images transmitted to Earth from outer space, including the moon, Mars, and exploratory probes beyond. Such a denial on their part was totally consistent with the theme of their 700-page Roswell report that dismissed all of the eyewitness accounts and substituted a new "theory": The event was part of a top-secret project called Mogul.

Colleague Dennis Balthaser spent five years getting the standard run-around from the Air Force after submitting a series of Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests concerning the identity of the aforementioned "government" facility assigned to examine the Ramey Memo. In 2000, the researcher was finally dismissed by the AF FOIA Officer by stating that they had "... no record of...initial (Air Force) request to obtain copies of the photos form the U.T. (University of Texas) at Arlington. (No record of) initial request to have the (Ramey) photos analyzed by a national level organization."[6] Contrary to what the USAF claimed in their Project Mogul report, they finally admitted they never made any attempt to examine the Ramey Memo as they originally stated. This was a major acknowledgement by a branch of the U.S. military that presented erroneous information in a report claiming to provide a new "theory" as to what potentially crashed back in 1947. It would then appear that this admission places the memo once again in the forefront of a potentially explosive document.

With all of this as a historic backdrop, we can now place the now famous Ramey Memo in its rightful context. All of the events leading up to, surrounding, and that which transpired at the one and only press conference

in Ramey's office at Fort Worth, Texas, on July 8th, 1947, were a result of what had crashed and been recovered outside of Roswell within that same time frame. We know exactly when, where, and who is in the photograph in question. It is absolutely no leap of faith to conclude that this teletype message concerns precisely what the entire world was holding its breath over. All eyes were on Roswell. The obvious question, which few have asked is: Why wasn't a press conference held at Roswell? The entire cast of characters could have been present, the same media outlets would have been available, and more importantly, should any information contrary to the truth be presented as fact, there would be dozens of witnesses to challenge any deviations from the truth. It was because all eyes were on Roswell that Washington masterfully crafted a diversion at Fort Worth and the cover-story to artfully embarrass only Major Marcel and provide a conventional explanation that was a viable substitute for something less than prosaic. The plan was to get the press to become advocates for the hot air of a balloon—and the balloon wreckage on Ramey's floor was all the explanation needed.

The irony of ironies remains: One of the main arbiters of the cover-up may also provide us with a key to the final solution; the Ramey Memo tells a much different story than what the world was told 70 years ago. If the modern-day reading of this document is even close to being correct, then it is truly is a smoking gun.

Knowing that high-resolution scans of the message being held by Ramey at a press conference concerning Roswell implicates the memo and everything interpreted from it. Does it reference the weather balloon, torn and scattered on the floor right in front of the officer, or does it reveal something much closer to the truth? When the image is enhanced and analyzed it speaks of a totally different situation than what the press was presented in General Ramey's office.

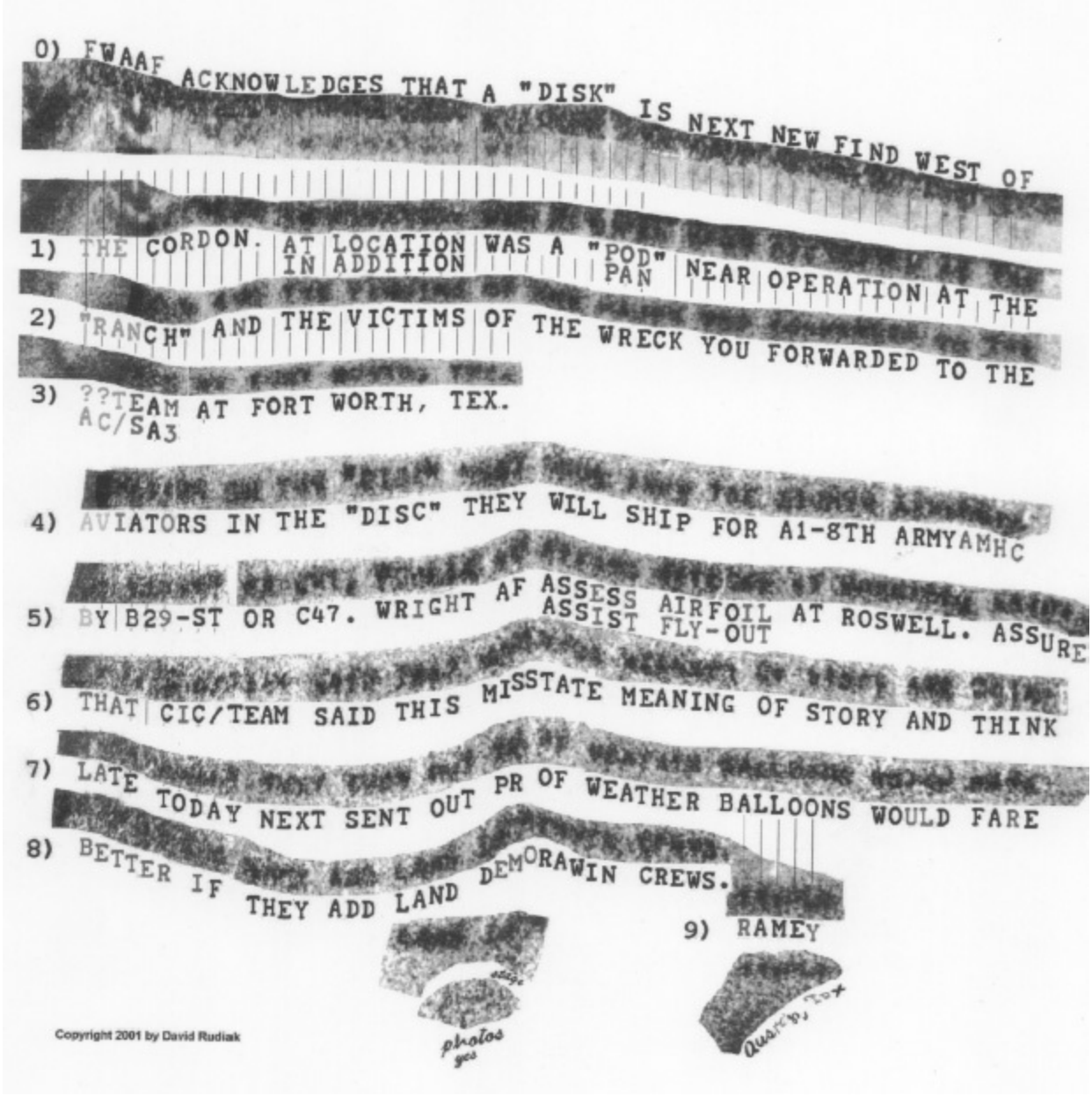
Apparently, the piece of paper is a telegram from Ramey to the Army Air Force Chief of Staff General Hoyt S. Vandenberg at the Pentagon. The balance of the visible text presents a cursory account of the situation in New Mexico and there in Fort Worth.

The first visible paragraph depicts what has been found outside of Roswell. Ramey states, "DISK IS NEXT NEW FIND." What is especially curious is that numerous Roswell witnesses have described that the disk was small, more egg-shaped, and the size of a small car. This may account for why the word "disk" is always in quotation marks in the memo, because the

question was whether it actually was disk-shaped as so-often described in previous sighting reports. Also, the second line in the paragraph appears to use the word “POD.” In recent years of our investigation, there has been more discussion about the craft at the impact site being more of an escape capsule of sorts—with the debris field making up a vast majority of the outer hull of the ship.

Continuing, consistent with the eyewitness testimony, “THE VICTIMS OF THE WRECK” and “POD” were found at the “OPERATION AT THE RANCH.” At the end of the paragraph it tentatively reads “YOU” (Vandenberg) had ordered the “VICTIMS” and /or the wreckage “FORWARDED” to “FORT WORTH, TEX.” Adding to the certainty of this read is that this line is square in the focus of the flash zone. The word “VICTIMS” alone is of great importance in that it not only rules out any type of balloon device, but it also suggests something more. It is standard procedure for the military both past and present to reference deceased military or civilian as “casualties.” The question remains: Why qualify “bodies” with the use of the word “VICTIMS”? The implication suggests that they were “something else.”

The second paragraph is no less telling, as Ramey describes how preliminary events were being handled. He states that something “IN THE DISK,” possibly the bodies of the “FORWARDED VICTIMS” (another word in the text could possibly be “AVIATOR”), would be flown by a “B-28 SPECIAL TRANSPORT OR C-47 TO THE A1” (which is a security designation at the 8th Air Force at Carswell AAF in Fort Worth. The A1 division would make sense given that it included the lead flight surgeon, specifically if bodies were involved.


0) FWAAF ACKNOWLEDGES THAT A "DISK" IS NEXT NEW FIND WEST OF
1) THE CORDON. AT LOCATION WAS A "POD" IN ADDITION PAN NEAR OPERATION AT THE
2) "RANCH" AND THE VICTIMS OF THE WRECK YOU FORWARDED TO THE
3) ??TEAM AT FORT WORTH, TEX.
AC/SA3
4) AVIATORS IN THE "DISC" THEY WILL SHIP FOR A1-8TH ARMYAMHC
5) BY B29-ST OR C47. WRIGHT AF ASSESS AIRFOIL AT ROSWELL. ASSURE ASSIST FLY-OUT
6) THAT CIC/TEAM SAID THIS MISSTATE MEANING OF STORY AND THINK
7) LATE TODAY NEXT SENT OUT PR OF WEATHER BALLOONS WOULD FARE
8) BETTER IF THEY ADD LAND DEMORAWIN CREWS.
9) RAMEY
Copyright 2001 by David Rudiak
photos yes

The best reading to date of the memo based on the analysis of Rudiak and Burleson. PHOTO CREDIT: IUFOMRC.

Finishing out the rest of the paragraph and completing the wording of the message, Ramey encourages the use of weather balloons in demonstrations by the military to reinforce the alternative Roswell explanation. Line number seven reads “NEXT SENT OUT PR OF WEATHER BALLOONS” and line eight, the very last line of the message suggests, “LAND DEMO RAWIN (a specific balloon that consisted of balloon(s) and radar reflector kites—the device displayed in Ramey’s office) CREWS.”

This recommendation by Ramey would actually become a historic fact, as such public launches of Rawin weather balloon devices became prevalent within days after the Ramey press conference. Balloon demonstrations were conducted as propaganda for the media across America. This and others elements described in the memo are borne out by some of the eyewitness testimony. The fact that a document from 1947, which almost every witness involved had no idea of its content, would later corroborate some of the details contained therein, is remarkable enough. The fact that so many colleagues within the UFO community continue to turn a blind eye to such a potentially crucial piece of evidence continues to mystify those of us who still side with the possibility that this piece of paper may not only demolish one of the greatest cover-ups in history, but take it to the next level if the word "VICTIMS" in conjunction with the Roswell Incident is accurate. It may not prove that they were extraterrestrial, but it certainly isn't referencing anthropomorphic wooden test dummies.

Another irony often overlooked is that General Roger Ramey, when serving as a consultant to the Air Force's Project Blue Book UFO study, was referred to as their "saucer man."[7] Clearly, "balloon man" would have been much more appropriate.

Unlike the passing of the remaining Roswell witnesses, time was forever frozen with the blink of a camera shutter. For that brief moment, as the world waited in suspense following the announcement about the capture of the flying saucer, the weather balloon explanation may have squelched one of the biggest stories of all time. And there before our eyes, in that very same photograph, the truth may be staring right back at us. We only have to be brave enough and accept what may indeed be hiding behind that veil of secrecy—or in the case of the Ramey Memo, hidden in a photograph about a weather balloon cover-up. The final dispositive clue may be just beyond our reach and it would be the ultimate tragedy to surrender when the truth is still there.

Marion Brimberry was an enlisted crewman on a B-29 stationed at Fort Worth AAF in 1948, a year after "Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer." Waiting on the tarmac with the rest of the crew to board his assigned aircraft was General Ramey himself. One of the officers on the crew was overheard asking Ramey about what had transpired the year prior. "What about it, General?" the officer asked. "What was that stuff?" To which Ramey answered, "Oh that. It was the biggest lie I ever had to tell." After a moment

Ramey added, “It was out of this world, son. Out of this world.”[8]

9
WHY ROSWELL IS STILL THE GRANDDADDY OF THEM ALL

"...the scientific world at large is in for a shock when it becomes aware of the astonishing nature of the UFO phenomenon and its bewildering complexity."

—Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist, Institute for Atmospheric Physics, and professor, Department Meteorology, University of Arizona, Tucson

"Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, which could affect the national security are not, and have never been, part of the Blue Book System."

—Brig. General Carroll H. Bolander, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Research and Development

Throughout the years that I have investigated the Roswell Incident, I'm often asked two specific questions: "With so many other reported UFO cases, now running into the tens of thousands, why have you concentrated on this one to the exclusion of all other cases worthy of further investigation?" and "Why continue to investigate a 70-year-old case?"[1] I have several reasons.

Most UFO researchers became interested in the subject of UFOs when they were children or very young adults, and I am no exception. There has always been something about the notion that intelligent life might exist elsewhere in the universe and might actually be visiting us that piqued my imagination. This interest has persisted into adulthood and has intensified through the years, especially with the recent discoveries of a hundred or more planets outside our own solar system. More recently, the discovery of multiple Earth-like planets on other star systems of our galactic neighborhood has reinforced my belief that life must exist somewhere beyond our own world.

The vast majority of scientists and academics believe that, statistically at least, other life must surely exist elsewhere in the universe. The divide arises, however, when one asks whether any intelligent, extraterrestrial life forms have ever visited Earth (that is, have "they" been able to "get here from there"). Serious UFO researchers believe that there exists an overwhelming body of evidence to support the notion of alien visitation, and polls of the

general public at large tend to reinforce that belief.

On the contrary, some academics believe that not only has such a visitation never happened but, because of the fantastic distances involved, it is impossible. This position is not the result of stringent investigation into the subject or a conclusion derived from examining the thousands of accumulated UFO reports; rather, it remains a belief based on the old axiom, "It can't be; therefore, it isn't." The closest they come to a "scientific" explanation is to mutter something about the tremendous distances that would have to be overcome for interstellar space travel to be possible. The late astronomer Carl Sagan, who took the safe, standard academic position—namely that UFOs don't exist—nevertheless believed there were at least one million evolved intelligences in our own Milky Way galaxy alone. I believe that life in the universe, not just as on Earth, is the norm and not the exception. As Jeff Goldblum's character observed in the movie *Jurassic Park*, "Life finds a way...."[2]

The discerning reader will see that this debate revolves around the issue of proof. With regard to the UFO phenomenon, what constitutes proof of alien visitation? Unfortunately, most reported UFO sightings involve solitary witnesses reporting nocturnal lights. Such accounts do nothing to advance our knowledge and understanding of the phenomenon and are, quite frankly, uninteresting to veteran researchers. Daylight sightings of structured craft are slightly more curious, especially when described by multiple witnesses from different vantage points; however, these also do not even come close to measuring up to "proof" of off-the-planet visitation. Can they be fascinating accounts? Yes. Evidence of anything? No.

Physical trace cases in which some aspect of the immediate environment allegedly has been disturbed by a UFO (for example, broken tree limbs, residue on the ground, depressions and other markings in the soil, rare radiation burns to surrounding vegetation, and also to witnesses) are the closest thing we have to required elements that can be taken into a laboratory for testing and analysis. There are thousands of "physical trace" cases from all over the world and many of them are quite bizarre. And even though, as is often the case, a UFO has been observed actually causing the interaction with the immediate environment, the results are mainly inconclusive and could be explained away by conventional means—heretofore we can't prove a craft from another planet caused the aftereffect. And as with all of the described UFO-related experiences, the major dilemma persists. We don't have the

UFO parked across the street to kick its tires, so to speak. As the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek would often lament, “What we have is the Cheshire Cat effect from *Alice in Wonderland.* All you have left when it disappears is its smile.”[3] With UFOs all we have left is the impression left on the witnesses, but this is where the study of UFOs remains transfixed after so many years: the persistent opinion that some witness is going to describe something so untenable that everybody is going to believe. With that attitude UFOs will remain in the whim of a religious faith...and no physical proof.

For years, civilian UFO groups such as the National Investigative Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) were reluctant to even consider that these unknown devices may indeed be piloted by beings from off the planet. It wasn’t until the mid-1950s that a wave of UFO occupant cases throughout America, Canada, and South America demonstrated that given these craft existed as NICAP accepted, then somebody must be flying. Since that time, there have been so many alleged encounters with “beings” associated with or without a UFO throughout the world, that the different descriptions have been broken down into different categories. Unfortunately, we still don’t have so much as a shoe or a lost button from outer space. Still no proof.

The late 1950s and early 1960s brought about the frightening aspect of the progressive UFO confrontation: The so-called missing-time or abduction phenomenon has become the subject of a growing number of movies, TV mini-series, and countless books by researchers and the experiencers themselves. These ambiguous cases, if based in reality, by far should have the greatest potential for physical proof, as they may provide the potential for actual human-alien contact and interaction. It is true that so-called implants have been retrieved, unusual fluid samples have been tested, and numerous accounts of medical examinations testifying to terminated pregnancies and other bizarre reproductive conditions have been reported. To date, if any of these revelations would have provided the ultimate proof, you wouldn’t be reading this now.

The late Leonard Stringfield was an early member of NICAP, so the fact that he would become the “father of UFO crash stories” is quite ironic considering the group’s initial stance on such reports. In the 1960s, Stringfield was a business consultant on a project for the Air Force at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. For weeks, the work required him to work at the Foreign Technology Division (FTD) long suspected for having

conducted reverse-engineering tests on recovered UFO technology. Stringfield came away convinced that UFO artifacts as well as alien bodies were being stored at that time in the FTD building. But I was not convinced.

When Charles Berlitz and William Moore's book *The Roswell Incident* was published in 1980, it created only a minor blip on the media screen. At the time, I was searching out and purchasing every book I could about the serious study of UFOs. The new revelations about an alleged crash of a flying saucer outside of Roswell, New Mexico, did not enthrall me in the least. Not only did I pass on the book, I openly spoke my concern that a story of that magnitude couldn't be kept secret after all that time. Like most of my colleagues I resigned myself to continue standard case investigations with the hope that one of the ambulances I was chasing would finally provide proof. My epiphany was at hand....

Roswell offers the possibility of one or more recoverable artifacts manufactured off the planet: a craft or parts thereof. A UFO investigator who has a "nut-and-bolts" mentality naturally will gravitate to this type of UFO experience, as opposed to, say, claims of alien abduction.

The Roswell Incident currently represents our best chance to make the case for extraterrestrial visitation. We seek to do that by recovering an artifact of incontrovertibly alien origin. Today, short of any government in the world calling a press conference and finally revealing to the masses such proof, there remain two other courses of action: continuing archaeological search efforts at the crash site and, still adherently important to us, tracking down the remaining witnesses and their families who may lead us to such physical evidence.

What we apparently have in the case of Roswell is a craft of unknown origin that for reasons still unknown, exploded over a Corona, New Mexico sheep pasture depositing numerous types of debris during a severe lightning storm. From all eyewitness accounts, this catastrophic event created two additional sites of interest including a final impact site where the remnants of a smaller pod-like object and remains were also discovered. Before the local authorities were notified, and subsequently the RAAF, countless local ranchers and their families visited the debris field location. The other two locations were also discovered by civilians but were limited to just those individuals. The military would also secure these additional areas. During the retrieval operation, which included the boxing-up of the wreckage for shipment and the subsequent flights that transported this material to other

locations, scores of military-enlisted personnel and officers had access to the crash artifacts. Human nature being what it is, it is entirely conceivable—no, likely—that some artifacts were removed as souvenirs by civilians and military personnel alike. In fact, this was exactly what happened based on many firsthand accounts that we have on record.

The wreckage/debris from the Roswell crash is most often described as consisting of several types. The most numerous were palm-sized or smaller pieces of wreckage of very thin and lightweight, but extremely strong, pieces of "foil" similar to the aluminum foil found in a pack of cigarettes; this material was highly unusual for its time because of its strength, but there was nothing overly "otherworld" about its appearance. The other types of wreckage found were also characterized by their extremely lightweight and remarkable strength. There also were narrow "I-beams" that looked like metal struts with strange symbols embossed along their inner faces. Witnesses described a pinkish to purplish hew depending on which way the light hit the symbols.

Roswell skeptics, debunkers, and the U.S. Air Force all maintain that the witnesses are mistaken about the ultra-lightweight, super-strong materials; they insist the I-beam symbols are residue from Scotch Tape with painted flowers that was specifically used to reinforce the balsa wood sticks that formed the skeleton of the Mogul balloon kites deployed by C.B. Moore's team from Alamogordo, New Mexico, in June—not July—of 1947.

Who is correct? The critics who again insist on anything but extraterrestrial? Or the actual eyewitnesses who handled the remnants and were able to examine them at close range? Unless we recover the physical evidence, we may never know. If we are fortunate enough to obtain any of the original Roswell artifacts, their provenance would not be accepted as off-the-planet until they were analyzed and declared as such by multiple laboratories that specialize in metallurgy. In fact, I have always insisted on three independent tests whenever an unusual specimen was recovered as a result of the archaeological and geological work that has been conducted at the debris field since September of 1989. Results and conclusions would have to be drawn and reports written. Presumably, a public announcement of the findings would then be released to the press. In fact, that scenario has already taken place—several times! But results suggesting an extraterrestrial origin for the alleged UFO artifacts have been dismissed by skeptics and the government with charges of "inconclusive analysis."[4]

There is, however, one type of wreckage from the Roswell crash vividly described by witnesses that would be immediately recognizable as something truly extraordinary without having to be first sent away for analysis. We refer to it simply as the "Holy Grail"[5] of our Roswell investigation: the recovery of a piece of "memory metal." Fragments of memory metal have been described as being fairly numerous at the Foster ranch debris site (in very small pieces, of course). Witnesses have stated that a piece of it was extremely thin and lightweight; it is described as being the color of dull aluminum, and several witnesses have said that one could crumble a piece of it up in one's hand, then place it down on a flat surface, on which it would unravel and return to its original smooth, pristine condition without any sign of a crease or fold. Like the other crash debris, it couldn't be scratched, cut, burned, or permanently deformed in any way. Human science had not discovered or created anything exhibiting those same properties in 1947; though we are approaching more memory compositions today, none have exhibited the superior tensile strength described by the original witnesses. This is the type of Roswell evidence for which our investigation is actively searching. We continue to have several leads in this direction that we are pursuing.

Most every other UFO report involves a sighting of a possible unknown aerial light, object, and, on those very rare occasions, a personal sighting of close proximity. Such occasions are always very fleeting, and seldom are there ever bits of evidence that can be physically analyzed. In contrast, Roswell encompasses all of the best elements of an alleged government cover-up: sinister forces resorting to all levels of surveillance of witnesses with a dose of paranoia thrown in for good measure. Historical context and continuity, hundreds of potential witnesses from multiple locations and various paths to involvement, hundreds of photographs and film footage with documentation recording every aspect of the incident—any one of these provide a plethora of potential evidence so totally lacking in general UFO cases. There are also multiple locations of keen interest from debris and body sites, and archaeological work continues at these historical spots, such as abandoned hangars, hospitals, mortuaries, and jailhouses, just to name a few other landmarks germane to the original storyline. Throw in the ultimate form of evidence to include otherworldly artifacts and remains of non-human bodies and Roswell by far outperforms any other mystery—given such potential proof that we are not alone in the universe and the Roswell Incident single-handedly still portends to be the most significant story of the

millennia. “Roswell” has become a household word throughout the world and has become synonymous with the phrases “cover-up” and “UFO crash” for a reason: It still rates as not only the most famous UFO event of all time, but also the one single event that could prove that we may have neighbors in our galactic community. No other UFO event has caused the secret-keepers so much consternation, so much subversion of the truth—keeping in mind their “four” official explanations for the same event—something a Mogul balloon device is incapable of doing. Our passion continues unabated. The memories of all those now passed on beckon us to finish that which they started—not solely for them, but so that Roswell may take its rightful place in history, preserved in the truthful manner in which it took place. History should demand no less.

APPENDIX A
THE ROSWELL INCIDENT: THE TIMELINE OF EVENTS

The following chronology describes the sequence of relevant events before and after the Roswell Incident based on newspaper accounts, documents, log books, interviews, and reconstructed circumstantial circumstances. None of the witnesses involved saw the entire story of what occurred, as each knows only what he or she witnessed or took part in. It has been our task to piece together, like a jigsaw puzzle, these moment-in-time snapshots into a larger picture of what took place so long ago. Although we have taken liberty at times to fill in certain gaps in the actual chain of events, we have avoided speculation and strove to retain accuracy in hopes of demonstrating just how extraordinary Roswell was. The very fact that it happened now 70 years ago demonstrates the uncanny level of corroboration for an historic situation of this unique nature. Detail for detail, the entire timeline accumulated throughout the course of our investigation would fill a book. We present here the most significant features of this unprecedented incident. Still, some occurrences may be slightly out of order, but this is the most probable timeline.

Tuesday, June 24th, 1947

Search and rescue pilot Kenneth Arnold observes nine crescentshaped objects “skipping like saucers across the water” over the peaks of the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. The term “flying saucer” is officially born.

Immediately following the Arnold sighting, flying disc reports increased in number, originating in the northwestern states and within a week escalating in number throughout the entire United States. People grow more anxious regarding from where the unknown objects originate.

The Pentagon demands answers as more efforts are made to scramble fighters after the discs, all with failed results. The Army Air Corps is placed on special alert as pilots next mount cameras on to their aircrafts with the

hope of capturing the new phenomenon on film.

Tuesday, July 1st, 1947

Radar facilities in Roswell, Albuquerque, White Sands, and Alamorgordo, New Mexico, track “unknowns” that appear to defy conventional characteristics. The rate of speed, acceleration, and maneuverability suggest something beyond conventional capabilities.

Wednesday, July 2nd, 1947

At 9:50 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Wilmot observe an “ovalshaped object, like two inverted saucers faced mouth-to-mouth,” passing over their home in Roswell. The object, moving at a high rate of speed, is heading northwest.

At approximately 11 p.m., 65 miles northwest of Roswell outside of Corona, New Mexico, a severe lightning and thunderstorm takes place. Ranch foreman W.W. “Mack” Brazel, among other local ranchers, hears a tremendous thunderclap, which sounds “like and explosion.”

From separate vantage points in and around Roswell, William Woody, his father, Mother Superior Mary Bernadette with Sister Capistrano at St. Mary’s Hospital, and Corporal E.L. Pyles on the flight line at the Roswell Army Airfield, observe a flaming object, white with a red contrail, arc downward from the northwest, just north of town.

Thursday, July 3rd, 1947

Following heavy rain from the night before, Brazel inspects the outlying pastureland. Accompanying him on horseback is the 7-year-old son of Floyd and Loretta Proctor, his nearest neighbors. Brazel and Timothy Proctor discover a vast area of unusual debris about 10 miles from the ranch house. Scattered on the slopes, into the sinkholes, and over the arroyo are extremely lightweight metal and plastic-like materials. The strange wreckage is dense enough that the sheep refuse to cross and have to be herded two miles around to get to water.

Along with the young Proctor, Brazel takes a number of pieces from the pasture. He shows them “a little sliver” of material, which they cannot cut or burn. Aware of the $3,000 reward for physical evidence of the flying saucers in the news, the Proctors encourage him to report it to the authorities.

Sherman Campbell of Circleville, Ohio, reports to the local sheriff that he has in his possession what he thinks is an explanation for some of the flying disc sightings. He has recovered a downed Rawin weather balloon device resting on one of his open farm fields. The balloon is displayed at the local newspaper office and then returned to Campbell. Jean Campbell (Romero), Sherman's daughter who was photographed holding the device at the newspaper, would later report that it was kept in a barn for years afterward.

At the White Sands Proving Grounds in New Mexico, 150 miles from Roswell, an attempted launch of a recovered German V-2 rocket fails due to a chemical spill, which results in a flash fire on the firing pad. Several men are severely burned and the project is put on hold for the next few weeks.

At 1:05 p.m. police and multiple civilian witnesses observe discs flying in formation in Portland, Oregon.

A carload of motorists witness four disc-shaped objects streak past Mt. Jefferson in Redmond, Oregon.

United Airlines pilot Captain E.J. Smith, along with his copilot, observes a formation of five discs from their DC-3. As soon as the objects move out of sight, a second formation of four comes into view.

Coast Guardsman Frank Ryman photographs the "flying disc" he watches near Seattle, Washington.

Military facilities along the West Coast have fighters on 24-hour standby in the event the flying discs return. A number of bases in Oregon and Washington have planes equipped with gun cameras on airborne alert.

The Army Air Force states, "If some foreign power is sending flying discs over the United States, it is our responsibility to know about it and take proper action."

Later that evening, Brazel removes a 10-foot-in-diameter piece of wreckage at the end of a gouge, which is several hundred feet long at the debris field. There, he either loads or drags it from behind his pickup truck. He stores it in a livestock shed about three miles to the north.

Friday, July 4th, 1947

Sunrise, and curiosity and concern still run high as Brazel is once again drawn to the debris field. He rides out on horseback with son Vernon, the young Proctor boy, and their companions Sydney Wright and the two Edington brothers. Not far from their destination, one of them points to the

circling hawks in the distance; to Brazel, that can only signify one thing: One of the livestock is dead. But it wasn't any cow or sheep, and the smell "was horrible." Two-and-a-half miles east-southeast of the debris field, atop a high bluff that the horses struggled to reach, are two bodies.

As word gets out about the debris field, more and more neighbors descend on the site to pick up souvenirs. Meanwhile, Brazel continues to seek advice and anyone who can offer a solution as to the nature and the origin of the wreckage.

Some of the pieces of debris show up at the annual Fourth of July Rodeo in Capitan, New Mexico, which is an hour south of Corona. No one is able to identify the samples.

Brazel heads into Corona where he goes to the general store, which has the only phone in the entire area. He calls his boss and the owner of the ranch J.B. Foster in Texas to inform him of the incident. Foster instructs him to report it to the authorities.

That evening at Wade's Bar in Corona, patrons, including Brazel, pass some of the debris pieces around. No matter what damage they all try to inflict on the pieces, no one is successful.

Saturday, July 5th, 1947

Pentagon Army Air Force Captain Thomas Brown tells Major Donald Keyhoe, USMC, "We just can't ignore it. There are too many reliable pilots telling the same story—flat, round objects able to outmaneuver ordinary planes, and faster than anything we have." Another Pentagon source tells Keyhoe that some commanders had been given orders to "shoot the unknowns down," if possible.

Sunday, July 6th, 1947

Brazel rises early, completes his chores, and then drives 75 miles down to Roswell with two boxes of the strange debris. He goes to the courthouse and enters the office of Sheriff George Wilcox. Contrary to published reports, Wilcox is puzzled by the samples displayed by the ranch foreman. He dispatches two of his deputies out to the site with general directions from Brazel.

Frank Joyce, a reporter and announcer for radio station KGFL in Roswell,

calls the sheriff's office in preparation for his next newscast. Wilcox immediately refers him to Brazel and becomes the first member of the press to hear the story. Joyce encourages him to inform the military at the Roswell Army Air Field. Wilcox makes the call and reaches intelligence officer Major Jesse Marcel, who is on duty.

Colonel William Blanchard, commanding officer of the 509th Bomb group stationed there, orders Marcel to investigate. Marcel immediately drives to the sheriff's office, interviews Brazel, examines the sample debris, and removes some of it for the base. He reports directly to Blanchard, who is also concerned about the newly discovered wreckage.

Marcel returns to the sheriff's office with the senior counterintelligence agent assigned to the base, Captain Sheridan Cavitt. The two officers have been ordered by Blanchard to follow Brazel back to the ranch and investigate the situation.

Blanchard attempts to contact his boss, Brigadier Roger Ramey of the 8th Air Force at Carswell AFB in Fort Worth, Texas. Ramey is visiting family for the holiday and his chief of staff, Colonel Thomas DuBose, takes the important call.

DuBose contacts the deputy commander of the Strategic Air Command at the Pentagon, Major General Clements McMullen. He orders DuBose to immediately have Blanchard take some of the rancher's debris and have it sealed in a courier pouch to be flown to Fort Worth. McMullen also tells DuBose that after the material arrives in Washington, he would send a personal courier on his plane to deliver it to Benjamin Chidlaw, Commanding General of the Air Material Command at Wright Field.

As the plane arriving from Roswell touches down at Carswell AFB, DuBose and Colonel Alan D. Clark, the base commander, are there to immediately take possession of the sealed bag. Clark walks it to the "command" B-26 and quickly departs for Washington, D.C, along with McMullen.

A number of hours after Brazel had left Roswell with Marcel and Cavitt, the two earlier dispatched deputies return to report they did not locate the debris field but did discover a burned area in one of the pastures. It appeared as though some of the sand had been charred and turned to glass.

Because of the distance to the ranch over roads that are less than adequate, Brazel, Marcel, and Cavitt do not arrive until dusk. They spend the night at

the Hines House, which is next door to the livestock shed where Brazel was keeping the large piece of debris he stored there four nights prior. The men dine on crackers and cold beans. Marcel goes out to the livestock shed with a Geiger counter; no signs of radiation are detected.

An Army Air Force representative states, “We still haven’t the slightest idea what they could be. However, we don’t believe anyone in this country, or outside of this country, has developed a guided missile....”

Monday, July 7th, 1947

Sunrise, and Brazel leads Marcel and Cavitt out to the wreckage site that was the cause of all the commotion throughout the past few days. It is the first time that any military personnel are at the location. Marcel notes that the debris is scattered almost three-quarters of a mile, extending in a fan pattern several hundred feet wide from the west to the east. It is unlike anything either officer has ever witnessed before. The debris is as thin as newsprint, but incredibly strong. Brazel is told to go about his business and leaves the two intelligence men.

Brazel heads back to the ranch house and runs into Lincoln County State Police Officer Robert Scroggins. He displays some of the wreckage to him and the lawman offers to take a piece down to Roswell and get some answers.

That same morning, archaeologists led by Professor W. Curry Holden from Texas Tech University, who are on expedition working an area 40 miles north of Roswell, stumble upon an egg-shaped object that has impacted into the rough terrain. As they approach, they see three small bodies with large heads. Holden sends one of the students back to Hwy 285 to alert either the sheriff or police that they have discovered an aircraft accident.

Marcel, driving the jeep that Cavitt brought to the site, and Cavitt on horseback, circle the perimeter of the field. They are surprised to discover that there is no sign of an engine or propulsion system. They continue their search along the trajectory line extending to the east-southeast of the main debris field.

Walt Whitmore Sr., majority owner of radio station KGFL, makes a bold decision: He drives all the way up to the ranch and retrieves Brazel to get the follow-up exclusive to the phone interview with Frank Joyce. He will hide him out at his home once they return to Roswell.

At 1:55 p.m. EST, Lt. General Curtis LeMay, deputy chief of Air Staff for

Research and Development, meets with Lt. General Hoyt Vandenberg, chief of staff of the Army Air Force, at the Pentagon to discuss the escalating "flying disc" situation.

While vacationing in the Pacific Northwest, General Carl Spaatz, commander of the Army Air Force, tells reporters that he "knows nothing" about the flying discs or the various local units searching for them.

Sheriff Wilcox alerts the Roswell Fire Department about the reported crash. Before they can respond, a colonel from the RAAF informs them that the military will take charge of the situation.

Ignoring the warning from the base, fire crew chief Dan Dwyer and companion Lee Reeves drive a car out to see the reported site for themselves and observe the same scene as the archaeologist had described. But something is moving, approaching not far from where they stand—one of the crew has barely survived the crash. Within minutes after their arrival, a convoy of military vehicles from the base swarm over the area. The two firemen are quickly taken aside and warned again to stay out of it and not say another word.

A full unit of MPs, engineers, and a carefully selected team move in to the impact site for the retrieval operation north of Roswell. They are shocked to find civilians already there. They escort them off while others secure the area. They assess the situation and call for a flatbed and ambulance truck.

While her father was north of town, 12-year-old Frankie Dwyer stops by the firehouse just as Policeman Scroggins also stops by. He takes from his pocket a piece of memory material, which he permits the men, as well as Frankie, to handle.

New Mexico Senior Senator Carl Hatch requests an emergency meeting with President Harry Truman in Washington.

Secret Service agents representing the president, Richard McCann and Raymond DeVinney, are dispatched from Washington to oversee activities at Roswell.

General Vandenberg has his entire day occupied by phone calls and meetings about the unknown discs.

Lt. General Nathan F. Twining, commander of the Air Material Command headquartered at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, cancels an inspection of the Boeing Plant to quickly go to New Mexico for an "unexpected matter."

1st Lt. James A. Gillham is called on to pilot an unscheduled plane at

Wright Field that will fly a contingent of officers to New Mexico. "Something happened in Roswell." Among them is Major General Laurence Craige, chief of the Army Air Force's Research and Engineering Division under LeMay's R&D department at the Pentagon.

Finding nothing resembling any power plant, Marcel and Cavitt return and spend the remainder of the day gathering the largest pieces of wreckage. They load the rear of Marcel's 1942 Buick convertible and then the box in the rear of the jeep carryall. Failing to collect all of the visible material, they retrieve and contain the balance into an area about the size of a football field. Around dusk, Marcel sends Cavitt on ahead and then follows later for the three-and-a-half hour trip back to Roswell.

Whitmore and newsman Judd Roberts conduct a wire recorded interview of Mack Brazel. He mentions the bodies he located away from the debris field.

Walt Whitmore, Jr., home from college for the summer, returns late that evening to find his bedroom occupied by an unexpected guest.

A truckload of dry ice arrives at the base from Clardy's Dairy and is immediately stored in one of the huge freezer lockers not far from Hangar P-3.

Tuesday, July 8th, 1947

2:00 a.m.: Marcel finally arrives back in Roswell but does not immediately report back to the base; he first stops at his residence, which is located about 10 miles to the north. He wakes his wife Viaud and only child, 11-year-old Jesse Jr., to show them some of the debris. They spend about an hour examining it on the kitchen floor. The material had yet to be officially classified. Gathering it up, Marcel would then spend the next few hours getting some rest, cleaning up, and then reporting back to the base.

The center of most of the activity at the RAAF in July 1947, Hangar P-3. PHOTO CREDIT: DON SCHMITT.

6:00 a.m.: Marcel and Cavitt report to Col. Blanchard in his private quarters. Blanchard calls provost marshal Major Edwin Easley and orders him to immediately post guards on all the outlying roads surrounding the debris field.

Extreme security measures were quickly put into play at the Foster ranch: Armed guards are to encircle the primary area; a second cordon is to be placed around the outer perimeter and riflemen posted on the surrounding hills. The entire ranch, including the main house, is to be commandeered and no unauthorized person is to be allowed on to the property.

7:00 a.m.: After sleeping on the sofa, Walt Whitmore, Jr., is awakened by noise in the kitchen. He finds an unknown gentleman making coffee. He introduces himself to Whitmore as Mack Brazel.

7:30 a.m.: The regular scheduled staff meeting at the base is moved up in time. Blanchard informs the room about the situation and their strategy to contain it. Attending the briefing are Marcel and Cavitt; Lieutenant Colonel James I. Hopkins; Operations Officer Lt. Col. Ulysses S. Nero; Supply

Officer Major Patrick Saunders; Base Adjutant and Major Isidore Brown; Personnel Officer. Gen. Roger Ramey; and Col. Thomas DuBose.

Special units start to arrive from White Sands AAFB in Alamogordo, New Mexico; Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas; and Kirtland AAFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Having arrived from the Anacostia Naval Air Station in Washington, D.C., the night before, photographic specialist Sgt. Frederick Benthal was driven out to the impact site by a military truck. The site is under heavy guard by MPs including Cpl. William Warnke of the 390th ASS. Using a standard-issue Speed Graphic camera, Benthal was instructed to photograph several bodies inside a tent that were lying on the ground under a canvas tarpaulin. All of his camera equipment was confiscated before he was taken back to Roswell.

9:00 a.m.: Cavitt and NCO Lewis Rickett check out a staff car and proceed out to the impact site north of town.

Military police at the base are ordered to find Brazel as fast as possible. Suspecting the local media, they find him holed up at Whitmore's home. He is abducted and the wire recording is confiscated by the military.

Sgt. Melvin E. Brown of "K" Squadron, on guard duty at the impact site, is posted behind one of the ambulance trucks that have just arrived from the base. Though given orders not to, he proceeds to look under a tarp and discovers three bodies from the crash.

PFC Eleazer Benavidez of the 390th Air Service Squadron is ordered to report to one of the two B-29 hangars, P-3, for guard duty. He arrives as other men have also been assigned to the same duty. PFC Leo B. Spear and Pvt. Francis Cassidy of the 1395th MP unit, and M/Sgt. Harry Telesco, Sgt. Homer G. Rowlette, and PFC James Saine of the 603rd Air Engineering Squadron are among them.

Back in Roswell, Glenn Dennis, a mortician working at the Ballard Funeral Home, receives a call from the base mortuary officer who asks about the availability of child-sized caskets. A contracted driver will travel by truck to Amarillo, Texas, to transport three such caskets back to Roswell.

Walt Whitmore receives a phone call from the Federal Communications Committee (FCC) in Washington. He is told not to air any information regarding the interview with Mack Brazel. His broadcasting license is threatened if he does not cooperate.

Minutes later, Senator Dennis Chavez from New Mexico and the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee in Washington phones Whitmore and strongly urges him to do as the FCC has warned and that it was “out of his hands.”

11:00 a.m.: As already planned at the morning staff meeting, Blanchard calls Walter Haut and dictates to him a press release. He then personally takes it to Roswell radio stations KGFL and KSWS. Next, he delivers it to the newspaper offices of the *Roswell Daily Record* and the *Roswell Morning Dispatch.* It is now noon MST.

The base mortuary officer calls the Ballard Funeral Home again, this time asking about various preservation techniques and what effect each would have on bodily fluids and tissue.

Johnny McBoyle, a reporter for radio station KSWS in Roswell, attempts to reach the impact site. He reports an object that looks like a “crushed dishpan” and that there is talk about “little bodies.”

The bodies begin to arrive from the impact site and enter through to the far south gate. The ambulance truck with members of the base medical unit proceeds up the tarmac to Hangar P-3, which is on the east flight line and already under heavy guard. 1st Lt. Steven Whalen, a pilot with the 830th Bomb Squadron, is told, “Don’t go anywhere near the ‘Big Hangar,’ or you will run the risk of being shot on sight.” M/Sgt Robert L. Kopp, a flight line chief for the 39rd Bomb Squadron, observes guards surrounding the hangar and was also warned, “Stay away or you will be shot.”

Members of the base photo unit, including Vernon Zorn, NCOIC of the 3rd Photo Lab, although fully aware of the growing situation there, are told to stand down and not get involved. Captain Edward Guill, originally from California, is placed in charge of all photographic operations until further notice. His special team would be responsible to photographically record all activities pertaining to the incident. No film is processed at the base.

2:26 p.m.: The press release information breaks the Associated Press wire. The story announces: “The Army Air Forces here today announced a flying disc had been found.”

Within minutes the phones start ringing at the base. Marcel is the only one mentioned in the press release and he will soon be taken out of the picture. Blanchard is also planning on his own departure while officers continue their interrogation of Mack Brazel, who is being kept hidden and locked away in

the “guest house.”

2:30 p.m.: Wreckage that has already been brought in from the debris field is boxed and prepared to be shipped to Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. 1st Lt. Robert Shirkey witnesses MPs carrying wreckage through the operations building and loaded on to a C-54 from the 1st Air Transport. Blanchard oversees the process.

2:50 p.m.: Blanchard announces that he is going on leave and is not available to speak to anyone. Pfc. Frank Martinez of “T” Squadron will drive him out to the impact site where he will set up a base of operation and assume a private phone line.

2:55 p.m.: AP posts a “95,” which is just under a bulletin of importance: “A Flying Disk Has Been Found.”

An unscheduled flight arrives from Bolling Field in Washington, D.C. Lewis Rickett meets the plane and delivers a sealed box of wreckage.

3:00 p.m.: Marcel is informed that he is to report to Wright Field with some of the wreckage. Flight engineer Sgt. Robert R. Porter of the 715th Bomb Squadron assists loading from an automobile, a few brown-paper wrapped packages into the bomb bay; one, triangular in shape, about 2 and a half feet in length, and three others about the size of shoe boxes. Porter would question whether anything was in the packages due to the light weight. He and Marcel were not aware that sections of a Rawin weather balloon and kite were inside each package. Marcel would personally carry a small box of the actual wreckage into the cabin of the waiting B-29 called Dave’s Dream piloted by the Deputy Commander of the base, Lt. Col. Payne Jennings, copilot Lt. Col. Robert I. Barrowclough, and navigator Major Herbert Wundrelich. Also on the flight were Captain William E. Anderson, T/Sgt. William A. Cross, T/Sgt. George M. Ades, and Porter.

Lt. Governor (and future New Mexico congressman and senator) Joseph Montoya is in Roswell for the dedication of a new aircraft. He is the only state official who is available over the holiday weekend and he is taken to Hangar P-3 for undetermined reasons. Nevertheless, the politician is terribly shaken by what he has seen, but then, one of the bodies on the hangar floor moved.

Phone calls continue to come into the base at Roswell from all over the world as the press release circulates over the various news wires.

3:30 p.m.: Richard Talbot, paperboy for the *Roswell Daily Record*, was

manning his post at 4th and Main when he observed a military convoy approaching from the north down Main Street. An 18-wheel, low-boy or flatbed trailer driven by S/Sgt. George D. Houck of the 603rd Air Engineering Squadron, escorted by MPs in jeeps, such as Pfc. Rolland Menagh of the 390th Air Service Squadron, paraded through the middle of town. Under a tarp was something egg-shaped and about the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. Robert Rich was another paperboy working the other side of the street and witnessed the same convoy. Paul McFerrin, Floyd and Lloyd Carter, Charlie Webb, and Jobie MacPherson witnessed and described the same experience.

In mid-flight, Dave's Dream has been rerouted and changes its course for Fort Worth.

Captain Oliver "Pappy" Henderson is instructed to fly some of the wreckage directly to Wright Field in his C-54 "Skymaster" cargo plane. Henderson, who was a member of the First Air Transport Unit, would note that the wreckage "was strange," and that the two bodies, also confirmed by 1st Lt. Robert C. Borom of the 830th Bomb Squadron, which he observed before they were sealed in a crate, packed in dry ice, then loaded into the cargo hull, reminded him of the cartoon character "Casper the Ghost."

3:53 p.m. CST: General Ramey announces that the flying disc has been sent on to Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, for analysis.

4:00 p.m. CST: Reporter J. Bond Johnson of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* is instructed to drive over to Carswell Air Field. His editor informs him that a "flying saucer is coming in from Roswell."

5:00 p.m. CST: Dave's Dream arrives from Roswell. Marcel takes his box of debris to Ramey's office where the general asks him to show the location of the debris field in a map room. When they return, the real material is gone and on the floor in the middle of the room are a rotted Neoprene rubber weather balloon and a new foil radar reflector kite and wooden sticks shredded in pieces over unwrapped brown paper. The largest piece of the kite is about 2 and a half feet in diameter and an unopened brown-paper wrapped package is on the floor by the heat register.

A room full of reporters is outside the general's office while Ramey, his chief of staff DuBose, base public information officer Major Charles A. Cashun, and Marcel get ready for the scheduled press conference. Ramey then orders Marcel to pose with the substituted balloon wreckage as Cashun takes two photos. Ramey then orders Marcel to leave the room and not to say

a word to any of the reporters. He will be kept in Fort Worth for the next 24 hours.

Ramey announces to the press that he has cancelled the resumption of the flight to Wright Field. He then invites only one newsman, Johnson, into his office.

From Washington, the intelligence division of the War Department sends out the order that all of their field agents should "suggest saucers are radar targets for weather observation purposes."

Back at the debris field, men continue to arrive until there are more than 50 in number. They are all assigned to clear the remaining remnants and "anything that doesn't move." Soldiers pushed wheelbarrows spread out in rows across the field, collecting pieces from other men moving shoulder-to-shoulder as they collect every last remnant. The wreckage is taken to checkpoints where each piece is tagged and numbered, then recorded. Next, it is loaded into crates and placed in covered trucks to be driven back to Roswell. Fifty to 60 troops will spend the next three days clearing the site of all remaining physical evidence.

The young boys who were with Mack Brazel when he "found something else" at the secondary site are rounded up by MPs and warned of the consequences of ever talking about what they saw. Loretta Proctor would observe that her son Timothy looked like he had seen a ghost and would never say what had frightened him so badly.

While serving guard duty at Hangar P-3, PFC Eleazer Benavidez is ordered by the officer in charge to assist in the transfer of three gurneys from the building to the base hospital located just to the west. Each gurney had something on it that was covered by a sheet. Each one is loaded into the back of a truck when, from under one of the sheets, something moves.

5:30 p.m. MST: A conventional solution for the mystery is provided by Major E.M. Kirton, who informs the *Dallas Morning News* that a balloon is responsible for all the excitement.

Ramey permits Johnson to shoot four pictures of him with the balloon wreckage. DuBose is in two of the shots. DuBose is ordered by Ramey never to bring up the subject again.

Secretary to the hospital administrator Lt. Col. Harold Warne, Miriam Bush is rushed by her boss into an examination room while no one else is present. At first she believes the smallish bodies on the gurneys are children.

She is shocked beyond belief that they are not and one is alive.

6:00 p.m. CST: Warrant officer Irving Newton from the weather office is sternly ordered by Ramey to “get your ass over to my office immediately.” Newton, in front of a small number of remaining reporters, identifies the wreckage on the floor as a Rawin weather device. He is photographed once by Major Cashun and then sent back to his regular duties.

6:17 p.m.: The Dallas bureau office of the FBI sends out a teletype message to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover informing him that according to the military, a weather balloon with a hexangular radar kite is responsible for the false press release from Roswell. Refuting that claim, it then states “...TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION BETWEEN THEIR OFFICE AND WRIGHT FIELD HAD NOT BORNE OUT THIS BELIEF.” Additionally, contrary to Ramey’s previous announcement, the FBI stated that the flight to Wright Field with the wreckage would take place as originally scheduled.

6:29 p.m.: Another “95” listed from AP: “Precede Washington—Fort Worth—Roswell’s celebrated ‘flying saucer’ was rudely stripped of its glamour by a Fort Worth Army airfield weather officer who late today identified the object as a weather balloon.”

Outside doctors and nurses have taken over the hospital. First Lieutenant Rosemary A. McManus, a nurse with the base medical unit, observes, “Something big had happened,” and they are all relieved of their normal duties.

McBoyle calls parent-station employee Lydia Sleppy in Albuquerque about what he has learned about the impact site. She overhears an argument in the background; McBoyle returns to the phone and instructs her to forget everything he told her.

Sleppy quickly tries to put out a message on the Teletype. Before it can be transmitted, the message is intercepted by the FBI office in Dallas for stated national security reasons.

While Dan Dwyer completed his duties at the fire station, his family is paid a visit by 1st Lieutenant Arthur Philbin of the 390th ASS and a number of MPs. They are looking for Frankie. The family is mortally threatened if they ever repeat anything about the incident.

Through the afternoon, an 8-foot-high, chain-link fence has been erected at the far southwest corner of the base runways. The perimeter is 20-by-20 feet with a 15-by-15-foot tent set up within.

Just after dark, Corporal Edward Harrison is told to report with his detachment of Native American guards to their commanding officer, Lt. Col. John S. Loomis of the 1027th Air Material Squadron. He is parked outside the newly erected chain-link fence. He orders Harrison to post armed guards around the fence with the command “Shoot anything that isn’t a rabbit.” Terminal force was to be used to protect whatever was being kept inside the tent overnight. The first post is to begin at midnight.

8:00 p.m. EST: C-54 Aircraft from Roswell arrives at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. Boxes of debris are taken to T-3 (later Foreign Technology Division) for testing and analysis. This procedure will take all night.

10 p.m. MST: ABC News “Headline Edition” tells their audience that Roger Ramey has identified the Roswell wreckage as a weather balloon.

11:00 p.m.: Professional photographer Woodrow Jack Rodden, who had worked with the FBI during World War II and possessed a top security clearance, is rushed to the base and taken directly to Hangar P-3. A 35mm tripod camera is positioned in front of a suspended canvas tarp. The canvas is lifted and he is ordered to photograph one of the bodies propped up on the other side.

11:59 p.m.: One of the earlier photographs of Major Marcel and the weather balloon wreckage by J. Bond Johnson is transmitted to New York on the news wire.

At the debris field, large spotlights had been brought in earlier that afternoon with power generators pulled behind trucks. The cleanup continues through the night. Cpl. Leo Ellingsworth of the 830th Bomb Squadron at the RAAF is one of the men assigned, walking shoulder-to-shoulder, back and forth across the site, and picking up all the remnants they could see.

Wednesday, July 9th, 1947

12:00 a.m.: The guard is posted around the fenced-off area near the trash incinerator, located at the remotest part of the base. None of the men have any idea what they are guarding inside the tent within the fence.

Corporal William L. Quigley is just finishing his day shift in the armaments shop of the 393rd Bomb Squadron. The sergeant of the guard drives him out to Bomb Pit #1, one of the most sensitive areas on the base. This is where an atomic bomb would be stored and Quigley, for the first time, is placed on guard duty at the “pit.” His job is to secure the area around the

bomb pit where a B-29 bomber is parked with canvas screens draped over the wings to close off the bomb bay of the heavy bomber—tail number 291, “The Necessary Evil.” Silent activity takes place behind the screened-off region under the plane while it is parked over the loading “pit” throughout the night, but to no avail. The secret cargo wouldn’t fit inside the bomb bay; they would need another aircraft.

5:30 a.m.: S/Sgt. Earl Fulford of the 603rd Air Engineering Squadron is ordered by Master Sgt. Earl Rosenberger to accompany a detail of 15 to 20 other enlisted men and noncommissioned officers to board a military bus for a two-hour drive north of Roswell. Upon arriving at the debris field on the Foster ranch, provost marshal Edwin Easley and armed MPs ring the site. Fulford and the others are each handed a burlap bag and told to “police up” the site and gather all the remaining pieces of wreckage.

6:00 a.m.: Corporal Harrison drives his relief MPs over to the tent area, only to discover that the guards, the fence, the tent, and whatever was in it are gone. He observes a freshly grated road and tire tracks from a B-29 that departed from the site moving northwest toward Bomb Pit #1.

Morning newspapers trumpet the story that the “flying saucer” found near Roswell is a weather balloon device. Some quote Ramey while others quote “informed” sources, including senators in Washington.

7:00 a.m.: Hog farmer Raymond Pollard of Pollard Farms, located southeast of town, is detained for some time at the front gate. He has arrived to make a bi-weekly pickup from the mess halls. He is informed that the base is under tight security but he is passed with instructions to complete his business and then get off the base. First, he backs his truck up to one loading dock and then another as he exchanges empty garbage pails for others full of refuge from the mess halls, which are to be fed to his pigs. He overhears a sergeant (Sgt. Melvin Brown?) on the loading dock speaking with a subordinate about the “strange men” at a crash north of town.

8:00 a.m. EST: Initial tests performed at Wright Field include chemical analysis, stress, compression, and tensile testing. According to Brigadier General Arthur Exon, the lab chiefs at T-2 set up a “special project” for the testing of the material.

Cleanup at the various site resumes at sunrise. It has become more urgent after the weather balloon explanation broke to get everything cleared away before others discover otherwise. T/Sgt. Charles Randall is uneasy about handling the material for fear of its effect. Others express apprehension about

“getting contaminated.”

Captain Beverly H. Tripp, second-in-command to Major Easley over the MP unit, and 1st Lt. Chester P. Barton of the 1395th, are sent to the impact site, where they run into the heavy cordon and observe undistinguishable metal “parts of the craft and the burnt area.” Returning back to the base, they are “checked out at the base hospital.”

Today, PFC Frank M. Martinez of “T” Squadron is one of the truck drivers making repeated trips. He would take an empty truck to a checkpoint some distance from the cleanup location. He would get out as an MP would jump in the cab and drive off. Another MP would arrive with a loaded truck for Martinez to transport back to the base. There, he would also park outside Hangar P-3, and another MP would drive into the building, then return with an empty truck for Martinez to head back into the desert. He would haul debris for two full days.

8:00 a.m. MST: Members of the First Air Transport Unit begin loading crates of wreckage from the debris field into waiting C-54s. Sgt. Robert E. Smith, S/Sgt. William E. Fortner, Cpl. Jewel McAtee, Cpl. Fred A. Lathe, and Pfc. Clyde Lawler load three or four aircraft with an intermediate destination of Kirtland Army Air Field in Albuquerque. From there they are to be taken by truck to Los Alamos National Laboratory. Armed guards watch the entire loading process.

According to RAAF head secretary Elizabeth Kyle, the telephones continue to ring inquiring about the balloon mix-up.

Trucks continue to bring in the remaining wreckage, which is now all boxed and prepped for immediate shipment off the base.

Small crates of wreckage are loaded into a freight car just outside the east gate directly across the flight line from Hangar P-3. Federal supervisor Charles A. Wood monitors the loading by armed MPs including PFC Frank Vega, who was shipped in from Lowrey AAF in Denver, Colorado.

Bud Payne, a rancher in the Corona area, is chasing a stray cow. As he crosses on to the Foster ranch, a jeep carrying soldiers races over a ridgeline and bears down on him. He is physically forced off the Foster ranch.

In Roswell, Floyd Proctor and Lyman Strickland, after arriving in town from their ranches in Corona, surprisingly observe Mack Brazel under escort by three military officers. He avoids eye contact with them and does not acknowledge them in any way.

Brazel is escorted into town and to the offices of the *Roswell Daily Record.* There he gives reporters, including R.A. Adair and Jason Kellahin from Albuquerque, a new account that supports the weather balloon story.

Ramey's weather officer, Irving Newton, makes another statement in support of the weather balloon, but explains that it is a "special kind." "We use them because they go much higher than the eye can see."

An unknown officer sweeps through all of the local media outlets confiscating all copies and related documents to Haut's original press release.

General Craige arrives in Washington after a direct flight from Roswell. He and LeMay provide a detailed account of what was transpiring in Roswell to President Truman.

10:30 a.m. EST: Lt. General James Doolittle, former Commander of the Eighth Air Force, and Gen. Vandenberg meet with the Secretary of War for Air, Stuart Symington.

Major General Leslie Groves, head of the Armed Forces Special (Atomic) Weapons Project, and General Robert Montague, commander of the Army Guided Missile School, meet with Gen. LeMay at the Pentagon. Vandenberg will join the meeting in progress.

10:50 a.m.: Doolittle, Vandenberg, and Symington meet in the office of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, chief of staff of the Army. Major General Lauris Norstad, director of the Plans and Operations Division of the War Department, is also in attendance.

11:58 a.m.: Vandenberg calls President Truman.

12:15 p.m.: Doolittle and Vandenberg meet with the president.

12:50 p.m.: Vandenberg and Symington meet with the Joint Chiefs.

2:20 p.m.: Vandenberg and Symington meet privately.

2:40 p.m.: Secretary of War Robert Patterson meets with Groves and Montague.

New Mexico Senator Carl Hatch has an unscheduled private meeting with President Truman.

4:15 p.m.: Vandenberg meets with Major General Emmett O'Donnell, director of information, Army Air Force Public Relations. The year before, O'Donnell was the deputy chief of engineering of the Army Technical Services Command, which would become the Air Material Command, directed by General Nathan Twining at Wright Field.

3:00 p.m. MST: Members of the 393rd Bomb Wing, the crew of B-29

“The Necessary Evil,” are shooting on the skeet range when they are told that they are to stay together as they have been assigned to a special flight. The squadron operations officer Lt. Colonel Edgar Skelly will brief them on the situation.

Skelly orders the aircraft commander to assemble the entire crew for briefing and preflight instructions.

4:00 p.m.: Members of the flight crew preflight their aircraft, then taxi out to Bomb Pit #1. The only unobstructed areas overseeing the highly secured area are the air traffic tower and some of the surrounding flight line. Posted signs read: “LETHAL FORCE AUTHORIZED ANYONE CROSSING WITHIN 200 FEET OF THIS LOCATION.” A sealed, unmarked, rectangular, wooden crate is hoisted from the pit and loaded into the bomb bay of the B-29, tail number 301 “Straight Flush.” Six armed guards consisting of two majors, Captain Meyers Wahnee from Fort Fitzsimmons in Colorado, two lieutenants, and a NCO, will accompany the crate in the non-pressurized fuselage of the plane.

The B-29 departs RAAF with a crew comprised of Captain Frederick E. Ewing; pilot, 1st. Lt. Edgar Izard; copilot, 2nd Lt. Elmer L. Landry; engineer, 1st Lt. Felix Martucci; bombardier, James Eubanks; navigator, T/Sgt. Arthur Osepchook; and gunners S/Sgt, Robert A. Slusher, Sgt. Lloyd Thomson, and Cpl. Thaddeus D. Love. They are to deliver the crate to Carswell Army Air Field in Fort Worth.

Mack Brazel is taken to KGFL to do a live interview with Frank Joyce. But this time the rancher tells the balloon story and that so much was made out of nothing. Joyce takes him off the air and as they go into the front lobby, Joyce notes a number of MPs standing outside the front entrance. “What about the green men?” Joyce asks. Brazel responds, “They weren’t green.”

Brazel’s son Paul learns of his father’s ordeal while working on a ranch in western Texas. After the long drive to the Foster ranch, he tries to get to the ranch house shed to feed and water the penned-up horses. He is thrown off the ranch by MPs.

6:30 p.m. CST: The Straight Flush touches down in Fort Worth and taxis up to a waiting contingent of officers. Martucci recognizes a plain-clothed gentleman with the officers. He quickly deboards to greet his old schoolmate, now a mortician. The crate is unloaded on to a wheeled cart and rolled into an open hangar.

The C-54s loaded with debris take off with their cargos of crates marked Top Secret. They fly north on to Kirtland in Albuquerque.

8:00 p.m. MST: According to Lloyd Thomson's log book, the return flight lasted 1 hour and 55 minutes. As they took off from Fort Worth, Martucci exclaimed, "Boys, we just made history!" Major Marcel, who was kept overnight after the weather balloon press conference, is on the return flight. They arrive in Roswell with orders not to even mention the flight.

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* and dozens of other newspapers carry the United Press story: "Reports of flying saucers whizzing through the sky fell off sharply today as the Army and Navy began a concentrated campaign to stop the rumors." The story went on to describe that AA headquarters in Washington "delivered a blistering rebuke to officers at Roswell." The latter never happened.

Thursday, July 10th, 1947

The entire RAAF remains on "lockdown" as all activities coming into and going out of the base are limited, specific areas of the base remain restricted, and personnel schedules remain in flux. Things are slowly getting back to normal as less and less of the outside personnel remain and just about all the physical evidence of the crash has been transported off the facility. But there remain some unaccounted items.

At the courthouse, the sound of approaching vehicles surrounds the building. Within seconds MPs enter into the Sheriff's office, through the kitchen entrance, and the front lobby. They demand that Sheriff Wilcox turn over the box of debris originally brought in by Brazel the Sunday before. Physically accosting the law enforcement official, he directs them to a closet in his private office. Elizabeth and Phyllis, his two daughters, witness the ordeal and, with their bounty in hand, watch the MPs flee the premises as quickly as they came.

8:00 a.m.: Major Marcel confronts Captain Cavitt in the CIC office. Marcel demands to see the report that has been filed in his absence, but the CIC officer refuses. Marcel counters with "I outrank you!" To which Cavitt retorts, "I take my orders from Washington. Take it up with them."

Bill Brazel, reading the *Albuquerque News*, sees his father pictured on the front page. He informs his wife Shirley that they need to head down to the Foster ranch to help out.

Paul Brazel again tries to tend to the helpless horses at the Foster ranch, and again is ejected by army MPs.

No sooner than Frank Joyce arrives at KGFL, Whitmore pulls up and tells him to get in the backseat of his car. Sitting there is a silent stranger. They drive out to the Hines House on the Foster ranch. Left alone inside the shack, Mack Brazel steps in and asks Joyce not to repeat his last comment from the day before. Satisfied with Joyce's answer, Brazel comments, "You know our lives will never be the same." Joyce is then driven back to Roswell.

10:30 a.m. EST: President Truman meets with Senator Hatch.

At the debris field, the men are in the final stages of the cleanup effort. Industrial vacuum equipment will be one of the final phases as no allowances will be taken for the chance human error should leave any trace behind. They complete their work at about mid-day.

The U.S. Government feigns disinterest in the phenomenon. President Truman holds a news conference, during which he is asked about the flying discs. He says they reminded him of the notorious Moon Hoax of 1835, when a writer for the *New York Sun* published a series of satirical articles about the discovery of men on the moon by astronomer Sir John Hershel.

Brazel is also returned to the base and still kept at the "guest house" near the front gate of the RAAF. Since his detainment began, he has been deprived of sleep and forced to undergo a full Army physical examination, which included a full-body cavity search. Brazel has not been allowed any calls to inform anyone as to his whereabouts.

Bill and Shirley Brazel arrive at the now-deserted Foster ranch; all is quiet as every last man and vehicle have completed their assigned missions. Nothing is left except tracks crisscrossing the terrain where days before the whole world waited to hear if it was all true. But the gouge where something impacted the ground still remains. Bill scratches his head wondering about the newspaper account about his dad. Why is the Army still holding on to him? All over some weather balloon?

General Ramey gives an interview on an El Paso radio show. After acknowledging that Roswell turned out to be nothing more than a weather balloon, the radio announcer asks about all the other flying disc reports throughout the country. Ramey jokes that it was true, except for Kansas, "which was a dry state."

Major W.D. Pritchard from Alamogordo claims that a unit from White

Sands launched balloons around June 14. That, according to the article reported in the Brazel interview with the *Roswell Daily Record* on July 9th, is undoubtedly what the rancher found.

According to Brig. Gen. Arthur Exon, after extended preliminary testing of the material at T-2 at Wright Field, "...the consensus was that the pieces were from space."

Friday, July 11th, 1947

The debriefings of all participants become the next priority at the RAAF. Witnesses, in groups of eight to 10, are taken into rooms and told that the entire recovery operation is a highly classified situation. Each of them takes a verbal oath of secrecy and then, forget that anything ever happened.

Throughout the next few days, the Pentagon instructed the Army to demonstrate launches of the radar weather balloon devices to the press, in an attempt to prove how they accounted for many of the flying disc reports.

Military and FBI agents are hard at work downplaying events and ridiculing witnesses even as the number of reports dropped. Sightings continued, but fear of public embarrassment was a great deterrent for reporting them.

Systematic searches begin at all of the surrounding ranches. Neighbors to the Foster ranch such as the Proctors, Sultemeiers, Richards, Stricklands, McKnights, Eppers, Pierces, and specifically those residents along or near the trajectory path of the crash site, find themselves suspect, and the target of heavy-handed military intrusion—and confiscation of additional wreckage. In one case, a farmer had fashioned a larger section of debris to repair a roof over a pigpen. The piece was recovered by the military in short order.

The monsoon season of July and August continues as do the heavy rains that build up in the late afternoon. And with them, Bill Brazel soon discovers that unrecovered "scraps" at the debris field begin to rise to the surface after each heavy rain. His collection begins.

Saturday, July 12th, 1947

After five days of "incarceration" by the military at the RAAF, Mack Brazel is finally returned by a Piper training plane to the Foster ranch. Having taken an oath not to ever reveal the truth, he tells his son Bill that he is "better off

not knowing what happened."

To the south of the Foster ranch, young Dan Richards explored many of the deep caverns and collapsed sink holes tunneling their ranch. One particular cave with a 60-foot pit entrance was too much even for the military to search. Richards stashed his pieces there for the next few years.

The Marcels and the Cavitts resume their weekly "Bridge" card game, but things are not quite as before; while the women remain in the front room, the men are in the kitchen—heating up a piece of wreckage on the stove. After no affect, Cavitt reminds Marcel that the material is Top Secret and that they need dispose of it. Mary Cavitt observes the men going out to the new patio briefly and return without it.

August, 1947

Brazel and newly hired ranch-hand Tommy Tyree spot a piece of wreckage floating in a shallow pool of water at the bottom of a sinkhole southeast of the original site. Brazel laments that it's a "piece of that contraption that came down last month, but I'm not supposed to talk about it." Neither bothers to retrieve it.

Colonel Hunter Penn is ordered from Wright Field to go to Roswell. There, he is to concentrate on ranchers, farmers, and "simple types" residing in the outlying areas between Roswell and Corona who may have seen something, using intimidation and threats (with a weapon) to instill fear and compliance. He would take on the role of the "bad cop," as he was known for his brutality and "heart-attacking" his victims.

According to Major Charles McGee and Walter Haut, search teams exiting through the west gate at the RAAF continue periodic trips out to the debris field after heavy rains. Dressed as ranchers on horseback, the soldiers will monitor the location for additional physical evidence through the summer of 1949.

September, 1947

Sgt. Lewis Rickett of the CIC at the RAAF is assigned to assist Dr. Lincoln La Paz from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. La Paz has been briefed in Washington and appointed to determine the speed and trajectory of the craft when it impacted north of Roswell. According to Rickett, they

discover a possible touchdown point about five miles north of the debris field where the sand has crystallized, apparently from tremendous heat. They also recover more of the foil-like material and a seamless, weightless black box. La Paz, not briefed on the bodies recovered, concludes in his report for the Pentagon that the object was an unmanned interplanetary probe.

September 23rd, 1947

General Nathan Twining responds in a letter to Army Air Force Commander, Brigadier General George Schulgen, stating that “Flying saucers are real” and recommended the establishment of a top-priority project to investigate.

October 28th, 1947

Schulgen’s Air Intelligence Requirement Division (AIRD) releases a secret five-page “Draft of Collection Memorandum” that listed the “current intelligence requirements in the field of Flying Saucer-type aircraft.” What is noteworthy is that information requested pertains to “unusual fabrication methods to achieve extreme lightweight and structural stability,” and “Composite or sandwich construction utilizing various combinations of metals, metallic foils, plastics...,” all pertaining to flying saucers.

November, 1947

Lt. Col. (later Brigadier General) Arthur Exon, assigned to Foreign Technology Division at Wright Field, flies over the debris field and impact site, which are two distinct sites about 30 miles apart. The tracks of heavy trucks and other vehicles are still visible—so is the gouge.

January 22nd,1948

General Craige, now the head of USAF R&D, ordered the establishment of the Air Force’s first official study of flying saucers, Project Sign (Saucer).

September, 1948

Top Secret “Estimate of the Situation,” concluding flying saucers are interplanetary, is sent from the Air Technical Intelligence Committee (ATIC) to Air force Chief of Staff, General Hoyt S. Vandenberg. He rejects the report

for lack of “physical evidence” and orders the report burned.

Summer, 1949

While in Corona, New Mexico, at Wade’s Bar, Bill Brazel mentions that he has found a “few scraps” since his dad’s ordeal just two years prior. The very next morning, Captain Emerson Armstrong, in charge of the flying saucer investigation for the southwestern United States out of Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, and three NCOs, arrive at Brazel’s ranch house. Armstrong demands the “scraps” and reminds Brazel that just as his father had taken an oath, it was also his patriotic duty to cooperate. Brazel surrenders the physical evidence.

1956

“Report on Unidentified Flying Objects,” Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, Director AF Project Blue Book 1951–1953. “By the end of July (1947) the UFO security lid was down tight. The few members of the press who did inquire about what the Air Force was doing got the same treatment that you would get today if you inquired about the number of thermonuclear weapons stockpiled in the U.S. atomic arsenal. (At ATIC there was) confusion almost to the point of panic.”

APPENDIX B
THE 20 MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ROSWELL

1. What is the actual date of the crash?

In none of the press accounts or recollections of the eyewitnesses is there any date provided for the crash itself. The only date ever provided was Mack Brazel's coerced interview with the *Roswell Daily Record* in which he is quoted as saying "June 14, 1947," three weeks before he finally reports the event to the authorities. All intended to play down the importance and urgency of the find based on the portrayed lackadaisical reaction of the rancher. We know this not to be the case, as Brazel continuously expressed agitation and concern as to the disposition of the wreckage. Local ranchers describe a severe thunder storm the evening before Brazel first made the discovery. According to the weather records at the Stallion Army Air Field in Socorro, New Mexico, which is located about 100 miles northwest of the Foster ranch, such a storm moved into Lincoln County the late evening of July 2. This was also the evening that Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Wilmot observed from Roswell an oval-shaped object quickly approach from the southeast. "It was going northwest at a high rate of speed." The time they designated was 9:50 p.m. and the direction was toward Corona.

2. Why are there so many different crash sites?

If there is one location that even the Air Force agrees on, it is the debris field site. After all, they do need a crash site for their Mogul balloon. Since 1989, we have had at least a dozen firsthand witnesses take us to or describe the one location that all parties agree to: the debris field. As to the secondary body site, originally we believed it to be the impact site as a result of numerous eyewitness testimonies, but one thing always intrigued us and bothered us: The ranch is located in Lincoln County. If the Roswell sheriff's department and fire department were involved in any capacity, the ranch is not in their jurisdiction and they would not have had authority to take any action there. We kept hearing remarks about 40 miles north of Roswell and, as we honed

our search, we did indeed determine the exact ranch and general location of the impact site. Much of the confusion arose when individuals seeking to establish a marketing location for tours and even a resort-type of facility created contradictory landmarks for no other purpose than to exploit the event. In contrast, the true locations remain confidential to the general public and will remain so for the immediate future.

3. If the material was so indestructible, how did it break up in the crash?

Everything that is manufactured has to be malleable at some stage during that process. If something can be assembled it can also be taken apart. Whatever rained debris on to that open pasture on the Foster ranch was ripped to shreds —some external or internal force literally tore it apart. Any combination of universal elements down to the molecular level will have a fracture point—at a specific stress point it will break. Safety systems engineer Robert A. Galganski concurs, "...when stresses acting on it exceeded the material tensile (ultimate) strength, rupturing internal bonds, between its molecules or atoms. This breakage was most likely due to a high-intensity explosion." Not having any lab analysis reports on which to base a definitive response, the most logical explanation is that whatever caused the object to break up, whether a bolt of lightning or some type of internal malfunction, the kinetic energy generated was sufficient to surpass the fracture point. Indeed, whatever that point is, it was and presently may remain, much higher than anything we have developed. More correctly, the more accurate term is "near-indestructible."

4. Could it have been the crash of some secret device from America or elsewhere?

In the early stages of our independent investigation we explored every alternative explanation that could possibly provide a conventional explanation to the crash. The original balloon story was quickly ruled out for the simple fact that no one believes its off-the-shelf components would have confused anyone. V-2 and Hermes rocket launch dates were crosschecked. Special testing projects were also sought out at all of the surrounding bases. We went so far as to look into the possibility of a Japanese atomic bomb. Nothing could account for the crash, especially the Mogul balloon that is made up of all the same materials of the original Rawin Balloon explanation. There are no witnesses to any type of balloon, rocket, aircraft of any shape or

size, or bomb at any of the locations in question. The larger question remains: What should remain so sensitive, so secret after 70 years that would necessitate the need for a massive ongoing cover-up? No conventional explanation conceivable rises to that level.

5. If the crash was so important, why did Mack Brazel wait four days to report it?

The first thing to consider is that Brazel did not have any hired hands at that time. He was managing a 75,000-acre ranch with 700 head of cattle and sheep which, due to the open range, pretty much fended for themselves. Still, for a ranch that size, sheep had to be herded daily for water, fences mended, horses fed and watered—all of which were part of his daily routine. Nonetheless, Brazel made daily efforts to not only learn who was responsible for all the debris, but also what the source was. He went into Corona almost an hour away to use the only local phone to call his boss J.B. Foster in Texas; he sought out numerous neighbors all time and miles away. Most of their work was done on horseback and typically the ranchers all drove beat-up old pickup trucks with balding tires and worn engines that burned oil. He made an effort to contact the county seat in Carrizozo, New Mexico, to inform the sheriff there. He finally passed off a piece of the wreckage to State Police Officer Robert Scroggins with the hope of getting some help. Failing all that, and Sunday being somewhat his day off, he made the three-hour trek to Roswell, not knowing that he was entering a hornet's nest he never recovered from.

6. What is significant about the Fourth of July weekend and the crash?

As typical on holiday weekends, most people are off from work and take in special events surrounding the occasion. The same can be said about the military, and to an even greater extent, as they often are involved in parades and other special ceremonies to commemorate the designated day. Many of the personnel at the RAAF lived off the base and resided with their families within the city of Roswell. This becomes especially relevant for Major Marcel who lived almost 10 miles from the base. Colonel Blanchard, the base commander, lived on the base with his wife Elizabeth. What becomes significant is that although Marcel was on duty that Sunday, July 6th, as part of the holiday weekend, when Brazel brought the debris into town, whatever their first impressions of what the material was, it was indeed important

enough to alert the highest officers on the base and then, rather than dispatch a couple of enlisted men to check it out, the two highest officers in intelligence are sent to investigate the situation. It is important enough that Washington is also alerted that same holiday weekend.

7. Why did the Roswell base put out a press release?

Faced with the reality that they had lost initial control to fully contain the incident, the military had to resort to controlling the narrative. Civilians first discovered the crash, and in the case of Mack Brazel, he had already talked to the press in the guise of Frank Joyce at radio station KGFL. Without their preemptive press release, it would have made the substitution of the balloon explanation sound suspect. It was the perfect study in a straw man, where first you build it up, and then, with more information to make a final evaluation, you tear it down. No knee-jerk reaction as some skeptics have sounded; it was all methodically planned form Washington D.C., where wreckage was already in hand almost two days before the official response from Roswell was issued. It was all contingent on the acceptance by the press; not those journalists in Roswell who were effectively shut down, but by playing the old “shell game” in Fort Worth. Ramey, the “saucer man” hedged his bets and won; the national media accepted the balloon story and the incident was effectively dismissed as a simple misidentification.

8. Was Major Marcel familiar with weather/radar balloon devices?

Immediately following the surrender of Japan at the end of World War II, Marcel enrolled in radar school at Langley, Virginia. There he studied advanced radar technology such as Rawin radar targets, including the ML-307 reflector used on the Mogul device alleged to be found at the Brazel debris field. More to the point: All that Marcel would have needed to identify was Neoprene rubber, reflective foil, wooden sticks, and string. To this day, the skeptics maintain that he couldn’t.

9. Where was the final impact site?

We have spent years piecing together numerous witness leads and stories from both civilians and military as to the final impact site. We have flown over the region in small planes and helicopters searching out specific landmarks that would direct us to the precise location. In conjunction with many cross-country drives over less-than-hospitable terrain, we not only have

been able to identify the exact ranch, but also distinct features that have led us to believe that we were within a few hundred feet of the exact spot. More importantly, the site lines up perfectly in trajectory with the debris field and the secondary body site located a few miles from there. And as stated previously, in compliance with the owners of the property and their request for privacy, we will not divulge the location.

10. How many bodies were there?

Though we have divergent numbers from different individuals, all contingent on where they were located during different aspects of the recovery effort, the accepted number is seven. At least two bodies were discovered by Mack Brazel at the secondary location, two and a half miles from the debris field, and four more, plus one survivor at the impact site. All indications are that the two isolated bodies were already in the early stages of decomposition as a result of total exposure and the hot desert conditions. Predators were also a factor. Multiple witnesses there and at the base hospital in Roswell describe the "horrible stench" associated with some of the remains.

11. Where did the balloon in General Ramey's office come from?

When we first asked General Thomas DuBose, Ramey's chief of staff, after he confessed that the balloon was a hoax and they were the ones who switched it, where it came from, he responded that it wasn't Fort Worth. "It was just a pile of garbage. We didn't use them and I have no idea where it came from. In the Roswell annual yearbook, 1947, there is a photo of Neoprene rubber balloons suspended from the rafters in one of the RAAF buildings. Sgt. Earl Fulford described to us how he was one of the men who assembled them with the radar reflector kites. The base launched them twice a day, often from the downtown bank building being the tallest in the town. The B-29 navigators depended on them for the latest upper wind direction and velocity in conjunction with their daily atomic bomb test drop maneuvers outside of Roswell. In reality, they just used sand barrels of equivalent weight. Nevertheless, the personnel on the base were totally familiar with such upper atmospheric devices. So it was no surprise when the shoebox-sized, brown-paper-wrapped packages along with a larger triangular-shaped package were loaded into the waiting bomb bay of the B-29 Dave's Dream headed for the unveiling of the weather balloon press conference in Fort Worth. Someone had to find it amusing that the balloon would also come

from Roswell, along with a sampling of the real material. DuBose was correct that there had been a switch, but it was already done in Roswell.

12. Why does the Air Force continue to come out with new explanations?
For almost 50 years, the original weather balloon explanation was the final word on the case. It was specifically because of the overnight success and national attention our first book *UFO Crash at Roswell* achieved in 1991, then the scheduled premiere of the Showtime movie *Roswell*, which was based on that book, that the government was faced with the reality that we had resurrected the entire affair. The final threat was when we enlisted the cooperation of the late Congressman Steven Schiff, who personally pushed for the disclosure of all Roswell-related files on the 1947 incident. There is a twofold plan of reestablishing their control of the public perception of Roswell and stalling for time, that is, running out the clock until the final witnesses pass on and there remain no dissenting voices to their third, fourth, or any future explanation they provide.

13. Why wasn't there an attempted rescue?
We don't know for a fact that there wasn't any attempt to "rescue" the crash victims, but there are some clues that remain curious. When CIC operative Lewis Rickett was assigned to assist Dr. Lincoln La Paz in the field two months after the incident, they learned of a number of suggestive reports to that effect. Numerous ranchers in the immediate Corona area near the Foster ranch described observing nighttime, hovering unknowns over that territory, projecting lights over the ground as though searching the area. They seemed to remain stationary for extended periods of time and unlike the helicopters of that time, made no sound. Even more fascinating is the documentation to support a gigantic, motionless object tracked by White Sands Proving Ground at 200 miles above that same region. In late August of 1947 the missile launch facility had the most sophisticated radar equipment in the world. Their original CPS-4 antenna was used in conjunction with the SRC-270 and SRC-271 radar unit. This S-Band radar operation is in the 2700 to 2900 MHZ range and could detect a target at a range of 90 miles. After the Roswell Incident, the radar was adjusted by aiming the antenna almost straight up—70 degrees—that extended the range from 200 to 250 miles. This was 10 years before the Russian Sputnik and there could have been no other conventional device of earthly origin. The object was stationary, definitely

not a balloon, and after 30 seconds sped away at “tremendous speed.” Based on their calculations, the unknown was approximately 75 to 80 miles from White Sands, whereas the Roswell debris field is 85 miles away.

14. Why does the cover-up continue after all these years?

After 70 years since the beginning of the modern age of UFOs, I am personally convinced that the phenomenon remains a cover-up of ignorance. We still do not know from where, why, and who is the origin of the anomaly. Military pilots are still scrambling to pursue and engage UFOs, there is only slight evidence of any reverse-engineering accomplishments, and the only thing that any disclosure on the matter would divulge is our total lack of comprehension and understanding for the motives of the situation. The gravity remains not the threat from any intelligence off the planet, but rather the inability to make any determination as to true nature of UFOs.

15. Which deathbed confession is the most significant?

In my opinion, the rather-cryptic message left behind by the former RAAF base adjutant in 1947, Major Patrick Saunders, stands out and leaves little doubt as to the cover-up aspect of the entire incident. When we first found Saunders and spoke with him, it was immediately evident that like most of the other officers involved, he had nothing to say, as he conveniently claimed he “didn’t remember anything” about it. To his credit, before he passed away, he bought up numerous copies of the paperback edition of the 1994 Kevin Randle and Don Schmitt book *The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell.* Amazingly, he next sent them out to family and close friends with this cathartic statement handwritten inside: *This is the truth, and I still haven’t told anyone!* He was not referring to the book, but specifically the flyleaf page that had the following statement:

> DAMAGE CONTROL Files were altered. So were personal records, along with assignments and various codings and code words. Changing serial ensured that those searching later would not be able to locate those who were involved in the recovery. Individuals were brought into Roswell form Alamogordo, Albuquerque, and Los Alamos. The MPs were a special unit constructed of military police elements from Kirtland, Alamogordo, and Roswell. If the men didn’t know one another, or were separated after the event, they would be unable to compare notes, and that would make the secret easier to keep. After the impact site was cleaned, the soldiers debriefed, and the bodies and the craft removed, silence fell. It would not be broken for almost 45 years.

Several months before he died, he confided to other close friends that they

"...were faced with a technology greater than ours," and that "We had no idea what their intentions might be."

16. Did the Russians/Stalin believe the balloon explanation?

According to the August 13, 1991 issue of the newspaper *Rabchaya Tribuna*, Professor Valeriy Burdakov of the Scientific Geoinforamtion Center of the USSR Academy of Sciences, described how colleague Sergey Korolyov, the eminent rocket engineer, among other members of the academy, had been requested by President Joseph Stalin to investigate the flying saucers immediately after the "sensational news generated by the capture of a 'saucer' that, purportedly, had crashed near Roswell." Korolyov would report to Stalin personally that "the phenomenon itself is real."

17. Where did Ramey and/or other officers get the idea for the weather balloon?

Aside from Washington, Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, was also sufficiently instrumental in calling the shots as the situation in Roswell continued to escalate. The Air Material Command under General Nathan Twining was headquartered there and Twining, upon learning about the case, was speeding his way to New Mexico. Wright Field would also become the final depository for most of the wreckage and remains for testing both metallurgical and biological. North of Dayton, in the rural community of Circleville, Ohio, another recovery happened that also received national coverage. On July 5, 1947, Sherman Campbell found an unusual balloon device on his farm in Circleville. Both Campbell and the local sheriff identified it immediately and the next day his daughter Jean was pictured holding the triangular, foil-covered kite in front of her. In her right hand is a piece of the Neoprene rubber balloon—a Rawin weather balloon. The reason the story received national attention was that it was proposed that it might account for some of the "flying saucer" reports at that time. No one from the military swarmed the Campbell farm and recovered all evidence of the downed object. In fact, the Campbells kept the balloon in their barn for years thereafter.

18. Was there a collision of more than one vehicle?

With the publication of *The Roswell Incident* in 1980 by authors Charles Berlitz and William Moore, the only connection of remains of a ship with bodies to the debris field was the lone account of a New Mexico state civil

engineer, Grady L. “Barney” Barnett, of Socorro, New Mexico. Around 1950, he told his supervisor Fleck Danley that he had come across a small, wingless craft and small bodies out on “The Flats,” which by the two authors was interpreted to be the Plains of San Agustin, located just to the southwest. The book speculated that if Barnett’s account was true, then he observed the remains of the craft and crew from the debris field. We have made many trips into that region of New Mexico attempting to find any witnesses to the Barnett scenario and if there could possibly be any connection to Roswell. Our investigation has established the following information: 1. The only evidence of a fatal crash in the 1945–1947 time frame was that of a transport plane over “The Flats” in 1945. Wreckage and bodies were scattered for some distance due to the low angle of approach as the plane impacted. As described in other such incidents, the locals, once word circulates about such a tragedy, make their way to the scene and horde as many souvenirs as they can carry. In this case, the military arrived in time to secure and cordon off the site and not allow civilians into the area. 2. In the final planning stages of each scheduled “secret” V-2 rocket launch from the White Sands Proving Grounds, 100 miles south of Socorro, which happened to be in the launch path, the locals throughout that region were always evacuated and lodged at a motel for their safety. They were never told why they were essentially “kidnapped” from their homes except that it involved a “test of some sort.” 3. In conjunction with the rocket tests, there was a hidden radar tracking facility in one of the more secluded areas west of town. Today, mounds of crushed asphalt stand in piles as the only relics to their unknown assignment. While in use back in 1947, the military was constantly observed coming into and out of the region, all of which have created an urban legend such as the tale about a flying saucer crashing out on “The Flats” back at that time. You can observe many similarities to Roswell but, in reality, they had nothing to do with the incident. Numerous researchers, in an effort to still link the two cases, created a totally new scenario: the collision of two flying saucers; the collision itself creating the debris field, and next, one continuing on before impacting north of Roswell—the other descending for another 120 miles before crashing out on “The Flats.” As I have pointed out to the main proponent of this new theory, “We still have to prove one. Let’s not make it ridiculous.”

19. How do you justify the statements Brazel made to the newspaper on

July 9th, 1947?

The July 9th, 1947 edition of the *Roswell Dailey Record* carries the front-page story "Harassed Rancher Who Located 'Saucer' Sorry He Told About It." The entire article features the simple account of Brazel and how it was everyone else who overreacted and that what he first located on June 14th, 1947, was nothing but a pile of tinfoil, string, and wooden sticks, which, when gathered together, was no larger than a small safe. End of story. Hold the press: "I'm sure what I found was not any weather observation balloon," was Brazel's closing remark. With no by-line, the article claims that Brazel's wife Margaret and daughter Bessie were at the ranch at the time of the find. This was not true, as they lived at the Brazel home in Tularosa, New Mexico. The final discrediting of the piece was that the simplistic description of the wreckage, clearly a balloon, is not what any of the witnesses described. The fact that the final quote from Brazel, in the presence of military officers, about it not being any "weather observation balloon," exemplifies their objective: The rancher was only confused and couldn't recognize what we, the military, immediately identified.

20. Have you ever seen or handled a piece of the wreckage?

I have had many false alarms with either those who claimed to have been in possession of such evidence at one time or another, or potential candidates who suspected old military footlockers up in someone's attic, crawl spaces under former RAAF officers, cinder-block retaining walls in basements, security boxes in banks, and old dried up wells. Without exception, they have led me on many adventurous hunts. Even a 60-foot-deep sink hole, which dropped into a huge cavern called the "stadium," was on my short list at one time. I had even worked with engineers in an attempt to devise a way to get past a rattlesnake nest in the upper first 10 feet. I was "volunteered" to go first.

APPENDIX C
ROSWELL DOCUMENTS

FRR8

EEDITORS: PLEASE SUB FOR 5TH PGH AND REMAINDER OF FRR8

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HOWEVER, OFFICIALS AT THE ROSWELL ARMY AIR BASE WERE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY BY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. MAJOR JESSE A. MARCEL---INTELLIGENCE OFFICER OT THE ROSWELL BASE---AND AN ENLISTED MAN THEN CHECKED WITH THE SHERIFF.

SHERIFF WILCOX QUOTED BRIZELL AS SAYING THAT "IT MORE OR LESS SEEMED LIKE TINFOIL." WILCOX SAID THAT BRIZELL RELATED THAT THE DISC WAS BROKEN SOMEWHAT---APPARENTLY FROM THE FALL. THE SHERIFF SAID THAT BRIZELL DESCRIBED THE OBJECT ABOUT AS LARGE AS A SAFE IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. HE ADDED THAT THE SAFE WAS ABOUT THREE AND ONE-HALF BY FOUR FEET.

BRIZELL DID NOT BRING THE OBJECT TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, BUT MERELY DROVE THE 75 MILES FROM THE RANCH TO ROSWELL TO REPORT HIS FINDING. SHERIFF WILCOX SAID THAT MAJOR MARCEL LEFT SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING THE REPORT FOR THE AREA WHERE THE DISC WAS FOUND.

MEANWHILE, A REPORT FROM CARRIZOZO, NEW MEXICO, SAID THAT A DISC WAS FOUND 35 MILES SOUTHEAST OF CORONA. THE REPORT---WHICH WAS NOT SUBSTANTIATED---MERELY SAID THAT IT WAS "A RUBBER SUBSTANCE AND TINFOIL ENCASED." HOWEVER, IT WAS PRESUMED TO BE THE SAME AS THE ONE REPORTED TO ROSWELL.

REPORTS FROM THE ROSWELL BASE SAID THAT MAJOR MARCEL WAS AT EIGHTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS, BUT THAT "HE MIGHT BE ON HIS WAY BACK TO ROSWELL BY PLANE NOW." HOWEVER, OFFICIALS AT THE ROSWELL BASE SAY THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE DISC OR ITS DESCRIPTIONG, OR WHERE THE "HIGHER HEADQUARTERS" WHERE IT REPORTEDLY WAS TAKEN ARE LOCATED.

V342P7/8..

CHAPTER XIII
VISITORS

1 July 1947 - Lt Colonel R. Hamilton Martin and Lt. Colonel Loberg, Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, arrived this date to coordinate with S-3 and check inventory of printing and reproduction equipment.

2 July 1947 - Colonel Brown, Colonel Dubose, and others from Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, arrived on official visit and inspection. Others included Lt Colonel Raymond R. Spurgeon, to coordinate with Adjutant's Section; Lt Colonel Ray C. Milton, to coordinate with Engineering; and Lt Colonel Donald S. Dundas, to coordinate with the Legal Section (Judge Advocate).

2 July 1947 - Major O'Neal J. T. Archer, Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, arrived to coordinate with S-3 on flying safety.

2 July 1947 - Mr. M. E. Sudt, Engineering Depot, St. Louis, Missouri, visited to coordinate with Theater Officer.

3 July 1947 - Mr. Giles, Fire Prevention Inspector from Strategic Air Command, departed this station after completing his inspection of the Fire Departments.

8 July 1947 - Eighth Air Force Group Competition Inspection Team, under the supervision of Lt Colonel Burns, arrived to make the competition inspection. Major L. J. Seibert and Major Rogers L. Pearson were among those present.

8 July 1947 - Mr. John H. Kawka, Eighth Air Force, arrived on an ammunition inspection.

9 July 1947 - S-4 was inspected by Major K. D. Thompson and Captain J. W. Brady.

10 July 1947 - Mr. E. S. Rupp and Mr. C. D. Hall, SAGD, visited Base Supply regarding Quartermaster Stock Control.

11 July 1947 - Captain Billy M. Seargeant, 70th AAF BU, 103rd Weather Group, arrived on Weather Station Inspection.

11 July 1947 - Captain Edward G. Retartyk, Eighth Air Force, arrived to coordinate with Budget and Fiscal Officer.

11 July 1947 - Mr. R. W. Truitt, Cost Analyst, Eighth Air Force, coordinated with Budget and Fiscal Officer on cost analysis.

14 July 1947 - Colonel Sager, Surgeon, Eighth Air Force, arrived to coordinate with Station Hospital and Base Commanding Officer.

14 July 1947 - Captain R. R. Showalter, Jr., and Major L. A. Boatright, Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, arrived to coordinate with Statistical Control on cost analysis.

16 July 1947 - Brigadier General Roger M. Ramey arrived from Ft Worth on an official visit.

16 July 1947 - Lt Colonel J. P. Hines, Major Louis R. Fimian, Major Howard A. Beck, and Lt Colonel John H. Bell arrived from Headquarters, Strategic Air Command, for inspection and coordination of S-4 Section.

17 July 1947 - Brigadier General Roger M. Ramey departed this station enroute to Tucson, Arizona.

21 July 1947 - Mr. W. L. Wilson, SAAMA, arrived to coordinate with the Air Installation Officer and AACS, regarding Headquarters AMC projects.

22 July 1947 - Dr. E. M. Townsend, PHS, Ft Stanton, New Mexico, arrived for a visit with the Commanding Officer or Executive Officer. He is Chief Surgeon, Public Health Service, Ft Stanton.

23 July 1947 - 19 VIP consisting of several college presidents and deans, also CAP and National Guard notables from the western states arrived from Hamilton Field to spend the night. They were enroute to Eglin Field, Florida, to witness demonstration of latest army air force equipment.

24 July 1947 - The above mentioned VIP departed this base after a short courtesy tour, including a sample briefing.

24 July 1947 - Major R. J. D. Johnson and Captain W. A. Hartzop, Jr., Army Air Forces, Washington, D. C., arrived for investigation of the B-29 crash which occurred 20 May 1947.

25 July 1947 - Governor Thomas J. Mabry of New Mexico, and party, were the guests of honor of Roswell Army Air Field. Brigadier General Roger M. Ramey, Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, was one of the visiting dignitaries to welcome the Governor.

27 July 1947 - The following inspection teams arrived this date from the headquarters indicated:

Headquarters AAF
(To inspect entire Base and Group)

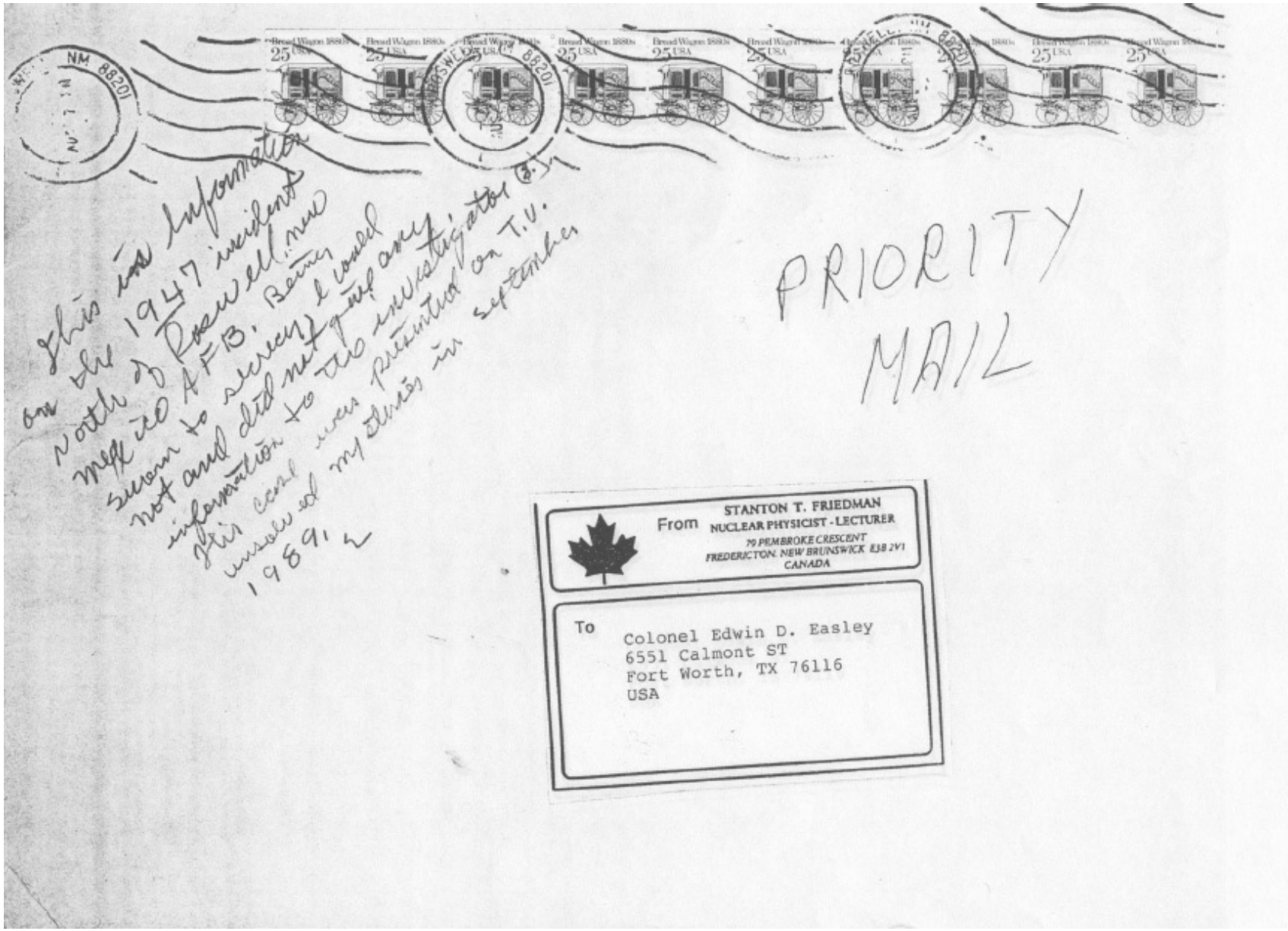
Brigadier General A. N. Gilkeson
Lt Colonel R. M. Creech
Lt Colonel E. C. Wessman
Major J. B. Gibbs
Major S. B. Wilkerson
Captain Robert Miller
Colonel R. H. Clark
Lt Colonel W. P. Thorington
Major A. G. Hart
Major C. A. Hydron
Major W. H. Davidson
Captain W. G. Shine
Captain L. K. Randolph

Headquarters SAC

Lt Colonel D. P. Wood
Major William D. Key
Major F. M. Condo
Major Richard R. Coursey

Headquarters 8AF
(To observe AAF and SAC Inspection Teams)

Colonel L. O. Brown
Major R. L. Pearson
Major R. F. Ireland
Major L. J. Seibert


NM 88201
Broad Wagon 1880s
25 USA
PRIORITY
MAIL
From STANTON T. FRIEDMAN
NUCLEAR PHYSICIST - LECTURER
79 PEMBROKE CRESCENT
FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK E3B 2V1
CANADA
To Colonel Edwin D. Easley
6551 Calmont ST
Fort Worth, TX 76116
USA

Barry Goldwater
P.O. BOX 1601
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85252

July 26, 1994

Mr. Kent Jeffrey
Porteous Ave.
Fairfax, CA 94930

Dear Mr. Jeffrey:

You touch something very close to me, by your letter. Roswell has long been a point of great interest to me, since the first UFO's turned up. You see, I both believe in UFOs and I don't believe in them. My argument is that God, in creating the universes as he did, would not just have made one planet with living things.

Butch Blanchard was a very close friend of mine. I worked with him in the Air Force, and am almost certain that I knew your father, the Colonel. There is not much we can do about getting the things about Roswell that you would like. I tried diligently to get them from General LeMay, and the only cussing out he ever gave me, was when I very vociferously asked him for information.

It was nice to hear from you. I guess we'll just keep on trying.

Sincerely,

Barry

Barry Goldwater

NOTES

Introduction

1. Jesse A. Marcel, Sr., Lt., Colonel, USAFR, interviews, 1978 through 1985.
2. Loretta Proctor, personal interviews, 1989 through 2005. (For a full account of what transpired with the Proctor family, and specifically son Timothy, see *The Children of Roswell*, Carey and Schmitt, New Page Books, 2016.
3. Frankie Rowe, personal interviews, 1990 through 2016. (Also, see *The Children of Roswell*).
4. Murray Schumach, " 'Disk Near Bomb Test Site Is Just a Weather Balloon," *New York Times*, July 9, 1947.
5. Dr. Edgar Mitchell, personal interviews, 2004 through 2014. On one occasion while Mitchell and the author were live in-studio doing a radio interview, during a commercial break, the Apollo astronaut leaned over and commented, "I listened to officers close to their deathbeds assure me that Roswell was a crashed UFO." As much as the author asked, Mitchell had promised not to divulge their names.
6. General Wesley Clark, personal discussion, December 2013.

Chapter 1

1. The biblical term "walking on water" suggests divine power over the immediate environment strictly in a figurative manner.
2. Lt. Colonel Edwin Easley, phone interviews, 1990, 1991.
3. "Souvenirs" is the word we have used in terms of physical evidence retrieved by individuals without authorization.
4. "Sheriff Wilcox Takes Leading Role in Excitement Over Report 'Saucer' Found," *Roswell Daily Record*, July 9, 1947.
5. Ibid.
6. The general "para-phrasing" by multiple family members describing how they were threatened by both law enforcement and military officials

regarding their possessing any personal knowledge of the Roswell Incident.

7. Phyllis McGuire, personal interview, January 1990.
8. Jack Rodden and Glenn Dennis, personal interviews, 1992.
9. Barbara Duggar, personal interview, 1990; phone interview, 2015.
10. Frankie Rowe, as told to her by her father, Dan Dwyer. Personal interviews with Frankie Rowe, 1989–2015.
11. Frank Joyce, personal interviews, 1998–2002.
12. C.C. Woodbury (son of C.M. Woodbury), personal interview, 2011.
13. Frankie Rowe, personal interviews, 1989–2015.
14. Ibid.
15. All here from Sue Farnsworth Bennett, personal interviews, 2008.
16. Michelle Penn, telephone interview by Anthony Bragalia, 2008.
17. Bert Schulz, personal interview, 2008. Schulz decided against a career in the military due to these observations.

Chapter 2

1. Classic quote from Lt. Frank Drebin of Police Squad in the movie *Naked Gun.*
2. Walter Haut, personal interviews, 1989–2002. Haut would say that up to the moment that his boss, Colonel Blanchard, finally sent him home to "hide out," he had a stack of press calls on his desk piled six inches high.
3. Robin Adair, telephone interviews, 1993.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Through New Mexican press outlets we were able to confirm that Governor Thomas Mabry was away on leave at the time of the incident. We were much more interested in documenting the whereabouts of the Lieutenant Governor Joseph Montoya. According to numerous eyewitness accounts he was in Roswell during the crucial time in question. Yet, there is not a single mention of that coincidence from any media source in the state.
7. Frank Joyce, personal interviews, 1989–2002.
8. Ibid.
9. Lydia Sleppy, personal interview and phone interviews, 1991–1992.

10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.

Chapter 3

1. “Did a UFO Crash at Roswell?” *Paradigm News Magazine*, 10 no. 9 (1996).
2. June Blair, telephone interview, 1999.
3. Legal counsel to June Blair, (name on file), phone interview, 1999.
4. Ada Robinson, telephone interview, 1999.
5. Ada Robinson, telephone interview by Julie Shuster, 2000. Shuster attempted a personal conversation with Robinson at a later date and was immediately rejected.
6. Jack Rodden, personal interviews, 1999–2015.
7. John Turner, personal interviews, 2000–2015. Turner remained convinced that Blair “knew as much [about 1947] as most of the officers” on the base.
8. Gloria Hawker and Eleazer Benavidez, personal interviews, 2008. On a separate occasion, Virginia Cervantes went to the Blair residence with no response.
9. Letters (four in total), sent to June Blair on our behalf by Gloria Hawker and Virginia Cervantes, 2009–2010.
10. Jack Rodden, personal interview, 2010.

Chapter 4

1. Gabrielle Telenbaum, phone conversation, 2005.
2. Sydney Johnston, Lt. Col. USAFR, telephone interviews, 2009–2010.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. “Air Force Report on Trip to Socorro—Albuquerque—Socorro, March 12–13, 1965.” J. Allen Hynek, Project [Blue Book] Consultant. Declassified Project Blue Book Files, U.S. Air Force, 1977.
6. Don Ledger, “UFO Updates,” February 2, 2010.
7. Cornelius Blesisus, personal interview and phone interviews, 2015–2016.

8. Ralph G. Steinhoff, phone interviews, 2016.
9. Ibid.
10. Paul Harvey, “Rest of the Story” radio broadcasts, ABC New Radio Network. With the passing of the author’s scientific director Dr. J. Allen Hynek in 1986, it became the author’s duty to resume the yearly briefings of the famous broadcaster in Chicago. Harvey would often call on the author for his expertise on UFO stories that came over the wire services.

Chapter 5

1. Jesse A. Marcel, Lt. Col. USAFR, video interviews, 1979–1981.
2. Congressman Steven Schiff, letter to Secretary of Defense Les Aspin.
3. Ibid.
4. Rudy de Leon, spokesman for Les Aspin, letter to Schiff.
5. Ibid.
6. Letter from Schiff to Aspin.
7. Ibid.
8. Talking points issued by the Pentagon in reference to future UFO inquiries.
9. J. Barry Bitzer, spokesman for Schiff, to newspaper columnist, Jack Anderson.
10. *Washington Post*, January 14, 1994.
11. *Newsweek Magazine*, September 19, 1994.
12. GAO spokeswoman Laura A. Kopelson to Jack Anderson.
13. Karl T. Pflock, *Roswell in Perspective*, Fund for UFO Research, 1994.
14. Phone conversation, Schiff and the author, September 25, 1994.
15. GAO spokeswoman Laura A. Kopelson to Jack Anderson.
16. News release of U.S. Congressman Steve Schiff, July 28, 1995.
17. *Results of a Search for Records Concerning the 1947 Crash near Roswell, New Mexico*, July 1995, United States General Accounting Office.
18. Associated Press, July 5, 1995.
19. *The Roswell Incident*, Charles Berlitz and William Moore, 1980.
20. *The Roswell Report: Case Closed*, James McAndrew, USAF, 1997.
21. FAX message sent to Col. Richard Mitchell, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

22. Personal meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
23. Bill Richardson, from the foreword of *The Roswell Dig Diaries*, 2003.
24. *Hamlet*, Act III, Scene I, William Shakespeare, 1604.

Chapter 6

1. Sheridan Cavitt, Lt. Col. USAFR statements to Col. Richard Weaver. In our initial meetings with Cavitt, he denied repeatedly that he was at Roswell at the time of the incident. May 24, 1994.
2. Jesse A. Marcel, Lt. Col. USAFR. This and similar statements were made until his death in 1986.
3. Frank Joyce, personal interviews 1998–2002.
4. Ibid.
5. Cavitt interview with Weaver. On different meetings with Cavitt, we secretly recorded our conversations. Every detail Cavitt confided to Weaver was never mentioned to us. In stark contrast, Cavitt denied everything he acknowledged to Weaver on May 24, 1994.
6. Cavitt to Weaver in total contradiction of his testimony to us. As we were departing for the last time from the Cavitt residence in Sequin, Washington, in June 1994, Mary Cavitt remarked, “Tell the boys about the colonel from the Pentagon who came to see you last month.” To which her husband snapped, “Yes, and I told him just as I have been telling you, I wasn’t there!” As his sworn statement to Weaver clearly demonstrates, this was not even close to being true.
7. Weaver, *The Roswell Report*, 1994.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid
10. Ibid.
11. Lewis Rickett, personal interviews, 1989–1992; videotaped interview by author, 1990.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Transcript of interview of Sheridan Cavitt, by Richard Weaver, May 24,

1994.
18. Rickett, personal interviews, 1989–1992.
19. Interview of Cavitt by Weaver, 1994.
20. Ibid.
21. Rickett, personal interviews, 1989–1992.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.
26. Karl T. Pflock, *Roswell in Perspective*, 1994. During the interview between Cavitt and Weaver, Cavitt asks, “You’ve heard of Pflock?” Weaver responds, “I know who he is, yeah.” Cavitt adds, “He’s our chief debunker. I lean toward him.” Pflock had yet to publicly endorse the Mogul balloon theory at the time of the interview.
27. Cavitt, personal interview William Moore, 1985.
28. Mary Cavitt, personal interview, William Moore, 1985.
29. Rickett, telephone interview, 1992.
30. Doyle Rees letter to Cavitt, 1993.
31. Julie Rees Rudzinski, personal and telephone interviews, 2013.

Chapter 7

1. Steve Akins, personal interview and telephone interviews, 1990. Akins was able to demonstrate to us with a topographical map the approximate location where he transported the two unknown officers. It was the general area of the Foster ranch.
2. Recollection and quotation from James Parker, personal interview, 1990. Since 1947, the ranch owners as well as the supervisors have not informed hired hands about the history of the ranch concerning 1947.
3. Frank Kimbler, personal interviews, 2011–2016.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Tim Bissel, phone interviews and email exchanges, 2014. During one conversation, Bissel mentioned that executives at the Smithsonian Network were especially upset that the producers of the documentary were impressed with the credibility of the witnesses we provided. These

would all be edited out of the American production.
7. Ibid.
8. Charles A. McGee, Major USAFR, telephone interviews, 1992–1993. Walter Haut also confirmed that search parties were still going out to the debris field for years after the crash cleanup.

Chapter 8

1. Carl Sagan and what would become a worn cliché whenever he was asked about his opinion on the subject of UFOs.
2. James Bond Johnson, personal and phone interviews, 1989–1992.
3. Ibid.
4. Thomas Jefferson DuBose, personal and phone interviews, 1990–1991. In a sworn affidavit signed on September 16, 1991, General DuBose conceded that he was complacent with General Ramey in the weather balloon hoax.
5. “Faces in the clouds” is the term generally applied to the psychological condition called Pareidolia. This phenomenon happens when the mind perceives a familiar design, such as in a cloud formation, where none actually exist.
6. In 1952, with the formation of the third official Air Force UFO project code-named Blue Book, then-Major General Roger Ramey became a consultant and ironically was referred to by the press as the Air Force’s “saucer man.” Along with Major General John A. Samford, director of USAF Intelligence, Ramey was often addressed as the Air Force’s “top two flying saucer experts.”
7. Ibid.
8. Marion Brimberry, telephone interview, 2000.

Chapter 9

1. In the opening salvoes of our own independent investigation of Roswell, many a scholar within the UFO community attempted to wave us off citing their position that you can’t investigate something that happened 40 years ago. Within a year, most of them were applauding the early successes and breakthroughs.
2. One of the greatest mistakes that even science has demonstrated

throughout history is the arrogant summation as to what an “alien” would think. Skeptics continue to reason that so-and-so should have done this and would have done that. Our simple reply has always been, “But they didn’t.”

3. Hynek would wrestle with the total unpredictability of the UFO phenomenon. Witnesses would observe an unknown at Point A moving toward Point B where witnesses would see nothing, only to have others at Point C resume the sighting. Hence, the scientist developed the “Cheshire Cat” effect and found that it often fit the UFO modem.
4. Opportunists, apparently seeking notoriety at times, have claimed to be in possession of physical evidence in the form of an artifact, photograph, or document with the claim that it was somehow connected to the 1947 event. To date, there has been little in the “smoking gun” category and we have learned heavy lessons in recent times accepting scientific confirmation that still fell short when it came to authenticity. One area in which we have never placed a high regard of expectation is that in the search for documentation. We believe one of the best modern examples is in the near total absence of documentation, that is, paperwork, pertaining to the Nazi atrocities against the Jews during WWII. We hear terms such as “no paper trail” for such examples, and given the scope of human rights violations to civilians involved in 1947, we should not be overly surprised that the trail was also “buried.”
5. As much as the term “Holy Grail” has usually been associated with the chalice Christ drank from at the Last Supper, we have never intended any disrespect. Rather, it demonstrates a level of ultimate evidence of proof of an off-the-earth manufactured artifact.

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